

Michigan's Wetland Program **SAVED!**

In February, Governor Granholm proposed sending Michigan's wetland protection program back to the federal government as a cost-saving measure. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council worked all year to prevent this while finding funding from other sources. On October 1, Senate Bill 785 was passed by the Michigan Legislature to save the program for three years and use innovative funding mechanisms to do so. This 30-year program is designed to prevent destruction of valuable wetland resources needed to keep waters clean, provide critical habitat, recharge groundwater, and absorb flood waters.

The bill that passed is not perfect. Once this program was placed on the budget "chopping block," opponents of wetland protection fought very hard to significantly weaken this important law, if not get rid of it altogether. In addition to keeping the program at the state, our most important role in this battle was to prevent numerous attempts to undermine the fundamental principles of the law. We cannot stress this enough to accurately portray what was accomplished: over and over and over again, proposals were made that would have devastated this law. We constantly beat those back and stood firm against very powerful opposition. In the end, we prevented the worst case scenarios, but some inroads were made toward weakening protections.

For example, for certain activities along the Great Lakes coast, applicants who need to work in wetlands may opt to have their proposals reviewed by the US Army Corps of Engineers first, and then by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). If the Corps grants a permit, the MDEQ is required to approve the permit as well, unless the wetland meets certain criteria: is a rare and imperiled wetland; is regionally significant for fisheries, wildlife, or migratory birds; provides support for threatened or endangered species; provides flood or storm control or ground water recharge; or if the activity is not regulated under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. We are unhappy with this provision because it prevents the MDEQ from providing maximum protection to our most sensitive wetland resources.

However, the law also creates a Wetland Advisory Council to evaluate aspects of the program, including many of the

changes made in this bill, and make recommendations for the future program. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council expects to be involved in the work of this council and we look forward to that opportunity. Additionally, the bill keeps the program at the state level, which is very important and what we set out to do, in the first place. A comprehensive list of all the changes made to the law with this bill can be found on our website at www.watershedcouncil.org.

Repealing the state program would have significant consequences. Individuals and small businesses with wetlands on their property, home builders and developers, and organizations who do restoration work would have been trapped in a terrible scenario. Federal law has no established timeframe for permit decisions. Average time is 120 days but some permit reviews take 600-700 days. Additionally, prior to processing federal permits, a jurisdictional determination (JD) is required to determine if the water in question is protected under the Clean Water Act. The current turn-around time for a JD approval is averaging 90 days. Compare that with the fact that the MDEQ is required to approve wetland permits in 90 days; 150 days if a hearing is required and the average time for permit reviews by the state is 60 days.

Additionally, during a period of program transition to the federal government, ZERO permits would have been granted. Applicants needing to work in wetlands for economic development would have been forced to push projects into later construction seasons. Frustration levels would most certainly lead to work that amounted to violations, leaving our wetlands very vulnerable. We believe economic recovery and expansion can happen in Michigan in a sustainable way; protecting wetlands is part of that equation.

The resource protection benefits of keeping the program cannot be overstated. The state program regulates 95.1% of Michigan's wetlands. Sending the program back to the federal government could have resulted in many wetlands not being regulated – potentially as much as 900,000 acres!

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Gail Gruenwald
Executive Director

Reflections From Our Director

Once again this summer, the staff and volunteers at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council were hard at work on a myriad of projects to protect and restore Northern Michigan's water resources. I say protect AND restore because the two actions go hand in hand. Our actions to protect resources include gathering data and information on the state of our lakes and streams so we can assess their health and respond to threats in a knowledgeable manner. We build on this knowledge to influence the policies that impact our resources. Please read about our efforts to save Michigan's wetland protection program as one example of our policy work. Our success on this effort is tied directly to our knowledge of wetland ecology and the implementation of the regulatory process in the field. Our respect and influence is based on our first hand knowledge and we believe the outcome in the policy arena depends on it.

You will also see in this newsletter that managing invasive species and restoring the ecology of our lakes and streams is a priority for us. I can't think of a greater threat and challenge to our lakes and streams than the continual introduction and proliferation of exotic invasive plants and animals. Through our surveys and management actions we are addressing this onslaught to restore our resources. Through our policy efforts on the national level we are working to prevent the introduction of new species. We are both working to restore and protect our lakes and streams from the devastation of invasive species.

One definition of "restore" is to bring back to health and vigor. Many question if lakes and streams can be fully restored after their ecology is so greatly disturbed by invasive species. We believe that positive results are possible and that a great deal can be done to reverse the impacts our lakes and streams have felt. For example, many organizations including the Watershed Council have stepped up to the plate to address the growing threat of the exotic Phragmites plants. Surveys and eradication efforts are underway to stay ahead of the curve and keep this invasive from taking over our shorelines as in other parts of the state and nation. We plan to broaden this effort this next field season.

We will continue with our multi-tier approach of protecting and restoring our resources. Our surveys, management, on-the-ground actions, and policy initiatives, will combine to provide Northern Michigan with the tools we all need to keep our waters healthy now and in the future.

Michigan's Wetland Program SAVED! (continued)

Additionally, the state program covers activities not currently regulated by the federal program, such as wetland excavation, dredging, and some drainage activities.

We were extremely fortunate to preserve this program in such a challenging budget year, and we are proud of our part in doing so. Not only did the Governor sign the new bill into law – despite proposing the idea to return it to the federal government – we also worked successfully with both sides of the aisle to save the program in a truly bipartisan effort. We are most grateful to Senator Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck) for her leadership and persistence, and Representatives Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) and Dan Scripps (D-Leland) for their effective guidance and resourcefulness. We also appreciate the efforts of Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City), Representative Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard), and Representative Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Kewadin) throughout the entire process. Thanks also to the Great Lakes Office of the National Wildlife Federation and the C.S. Mott Foundation for their support, and to James Clift, Policy Director at the Michigan Environmental Council, for his invaluable help. And most importantly, we thank YOU - our members and volunteers who contacted their legislators during this difficult work. We truly appreciate your support of our efforts, even when the going gets tough!

Surveys and Monitoring: The Results are IN

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is continually involved with a mind boggling array of surveys and monitoring projects throughout Northern Michigan. Recent activities range from ongoing and long-standing volunteer water quality monitoring programs to innovative and extensive aquatic invasive species surveys.

The Watershed Council coordinates several volunteer monitoring programs including Volunteer Lake, Stream, and Botulism Monitoring. Results from 25 years of lake monitoring show most lakes to be in exceptional shape, though there are strong signals of ecosystem disruptions from invasive species. With over 5 years of data, the stream monitoring program has revealed incredible diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates in some streams while exposing a lack of diversity in others, particularly those near urban areas. On the avian botulism front, things have been relatively quiet for the last two summers as reported by volunteers, with few bird or fish carcasses appearing on beaches.

Aquatic Plant Surveys

Aquatic plant surveys have been in great demand during the last five years. Lake associations, local governments, and even tribal governments have sponsored surveys on lakes throughout the region. Most recently, we completed comprehensive vegetation surveys and now have excellent baseline data for Crooked, Larks, Long, Mullett, Paradise, and Pickerel Lakes. Invasive aquatic plant species were found in all lakes, except Larks. In those lakes with infestations, the lake associations are taking the bull by the horns and implementing control measures to keep the invasives from taking over and wreaking havoc upon the native plant communities and the lake ecosystem in general.

Invasive Species Monitoring

Invasive species are a growing threat to the lakes, streams and wetlands of Northern Michigan and are not being taken lightly by the Watershed Council. Newly emerging threats include invasive Phragmites and quagga mussels. The Watershed Council surveyed the entire Little Traverse Bay shoreline and throughout the Cheboygan River Watershed searching for Phragmites, a tall grass inhabiting wet areas and which has both native and invasive varieties. Good news for the Cheboygan River Watershed and bad news for Little Traverse Bay. Within the Cheboygan River Watershed, connecting Crooked, Burt, and Mullett Lakes and flowing out the Cheboygan River, almost all Phragmites stands were of the native variety and thus, not a concern. The non-native stands found there were in roadside ditches. Conversely, of the 104 stands documented in Little Traverse Bay, only one



was native. Due to differing results, management efforts will vary with a focus on keeping the invasive out of the Cheboygan River Watershed and treating the invasive stands in Little Traverse Bay.

Quagga mussels are now the dominant mussel in Lake Michigan, disrupting the lake ecosystem beyond what the zebra mussels had and now threatening to invade our inland lakes. Concern about such an invasion prompted the Watershed Council to seek funds to survey inland lakes for the presence of quagga mussels. Through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and assistance from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the large lakes and rivers of the Cheboygan River Watershed were sampled extensively for quagga mussels. During sampling, thousands of zebra mussels were found, yet not one quagga! Now we need to redouble our efforts to keep them out. An important and easy way to combat the spread of invasive species is to remove invasives from boats, trailers, and equipment when launching or loading boats. On the policy front, we can all voice our opinions to our congressional representatives, encouraging them to support legislation that helps control the spread of invasive species.

Shoreline Surveys

A shore survey is a very effective tool for assessing and addressing impacts that shoreline property owners have on a lake's water quality. In the last two years, over 60 miles of shoreline have been surveyed on the expansive Burt and Mullett Lakes. Evidence of nutrient pollution, whether from fertilizers, failing septic systems, stormwater or other sources, has been found in multiple locations on these lake shorelines. Eroding shorelines were also noted in various locations and in need of attention. Compared to a previous survey in 2001, greenbelts (shoreline vegetation) were in poor shape along much of the Mullett Lake shoreline while in better condition on the Burt Lake shoreline. Data crunching and reports are still in the works for both surveys, but once completed, the Watershed Council will work with the lake associations to address problems on their shorelines that affect water quality.

Results from 25 years of lake monitoring show most lakes to be in exceptional shape, though there are strong signals of ecosystem disruptions from invasive species.

De-Phragging Northern Michigan

Phragmites australis is a perennial, tall grass species commonly found in wet areas throughout Michigan, whether along lake and river shorelines, amidst wetlands, or even in roadside ditches. There is a native variety that intermingles with other plants and coexists in harmony in our native ecosystems, but there is also an invasive type that dominates the wet areas where it grows, crowds out native plants, and alters the ecosystem in myriad forms ranging from diminished waterfowl habitat to changes in local hydrology. Phragmites has come to the forefront of water resource management in the northern Lower Peninsula because the invasive type has taken root in many locations, particularly along the Great Lakes and directly connected inland lake shorelines. Confronting this invasion, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Lake Charlevoix Association, and other organizations have banded together in an effort to “de-Phrag” our shorelines.

Over the last few years, inventories to document Phragmites have been carried out throughout Northern Michigan. The DNR performed a cursory survey by plane of Grand Traverse Bay, followed by more intensive surveys by township governments. Members of the Lake Charlevoix Association started surveying their lake shoreline last winter on snowmobiles and finished by boat in the spring and summer. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff and interns surveyed the lakes and rivers of the Inland Waterway as well as the shoreline of Little Traverse Bay. Results from this swarm of surveys? Not unexpectedly, Phragmites commonly occurs on Great Lakes’ and inland lakes’ shorelines. Interestingly, the invasive type dominates the Great Lakes’ bays and Lake Charlevoix, whereas all stands in the Inland Waterway were of the native type.



Dan Mishler leading a Phragmites workshop to help landowners identify Phragmites on Lake Charlevoix near Boyne City.

With all the facts in hand, we are moving onward to manage and control the invasive Phragmites stands. Landowners are being notified of invasive stands on their properties and control options, townships on the Lake Michigan shoreline are developing ordinances to assist with control efforts, and organizations like the Lake Charlevoix Association have taken the lead and already applied control measures. After collecting detailed information on all the invasive stands on their lake, the Lake Charlevoix Association worked tirelessly to inform and educate property owners, obtain necessary permits, and even raise funds for treatment. Due to their diligence, stands were treated this summer in an effort to repel the invader. Through collaboration, intensive surveys, and persistence, water resource organizations throughout Northern Michigan are making great strides in de-Phragging our shorelines.

Bay Harbor Regional Stakeholders Group

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has been actively involved in the remediation efforts at Bay Harbor and East Park. We are now participating in a new Regional Stakeholder Group that has been formed to bring together parties to discuss the remediation and possible solutions. With funding provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program, E2, Inc., a consulting firm, has been hired to facilitate the formation and implementation of a Regional Stakeholder Group. Other representatives in the Regional Stakeholder Group include the Preserve Homeowner Association, Bay Harbor Community Council, The Cliffs Homeowner Association, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Michigan Environmental Council, Walloon Lake Association, Three Lakes Association, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, City of Petoskey, Emmet County, Resort Township, Antrim County, Star Township. Non-voting participants include the Northwest Michigan Community

Health Agency, EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Boyne USA, CMS, Bay Harbor Company and Bay Harbor Properties. The Watershed Council believes citizen participation is essential to the success of environmental remediation projects and essential to effective implementation of the protections set out in federal and state law. Through a regional stakeholder group, we hope participants and their respective constituencies can fully understand the complexities associated with the CKD contamination and remediation and become more actively involved in the process. In doing so, we can work to achieve the best outcome for the water resources and citizens of Northern Michigan.

The Regional Stakeholder Group will meet the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning in 2010 and all meetings are open to the public. For more details, visit www.watershedcouncil.org.

Legislature Fails to Fund Phragmites Eradication Work

Along Lake Michigan, from Charlevoix to Manistee, numerous shoreline communities worked throughout 2009 to prepare for action this fall. Their efforts were aimed at controlling the invasive reed Phragmites. Unfortunately, their success ultimately depended upon action by the Michigan state legislature to appropriate funds that came from the federal government. Despite the fact that this money did not affect the Michigan budget crisis at all, gridlock won the day. The legislature failed to appropriate the money on time.

The application deadline for permits to treat Phragmites was August 15 because to be effective, treatment is done in the fall. Many townships and lake associations worked with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be included in a grant, made possible by the federal stimulus package, covering the costs of this work.

For those involved in the grant, the money will be available to use on phragmites treatments through next September, 2010. All township projects will still have to focus on the Great Lakes shoreline since funding was specifically for this area. And lake associations that had approved projects will be able to use the money next year on their lakes. If you have questions about this contact Brian Piccolo, Wildlife Habitat Biologist at DNR and coordinator of this project at piccolob@michigan.gov.

New Phosphorus Law Takes Effect 2010 – But More Work To Do!

Phosphorus is the nutrient most responsible for the pollution and premature aging of lakes in Northern Michigan. Beginning July 1, 2010 a new ban on phosphorus in dishwashing cleaning products takes effect in the state of Michigan. Cleaning agents intended for household dishwashers may not contain phosphorus in any form in excess of 0.5% by weight expressed as elemental phosphorus. A ban has been in effect for household laundry detergents for many years in Michigan. We encourage the use of phosphorus-free dishwashing products and all soaps.

Don't forget to visit your Aquavist Website

The Aquavist Website is full of useful resources plus news and information about the hottest topics in your county. Any time you want us to highlight something, just let us know! From here: <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavists/> you can link to recent Alerts, as well as the Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet County news and resource pages. For more information, contact Grenetta Thomassey, policy director at grenetta@watershedcouncil.org or 231.347.1181 ext. 118.

We applaud these cleaning product regulations, and remain committed to passing laws to limit phosphorus in fertilizer products, as well. Most fertilizers contain phosphorus; for this reason, it is recommended that fertilizing be avoided in lakeshore and stream bank areas (within several hundred feet of the shoreline) and if soil tests indicate a need, only phosphorus free fertilizers both on lakeshore areas and communities with stormwater systems that eventually drain into our lakes and streams. A fertilizer mixture developed specifically to prevent nutrient impacts on our waters is available for purchase. **Look for the 20-0-10 formula** on the package; 20 represents the percentage of nitrogen, 0 the percentage of phosphorus, and 10 the percentage of potassium (water-soluble potash).

Grant Awarded to Continue Work in the Lake Charlevoix Watershed

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is pleased to announce that we have been awarded \$147,096 for a grant proposal titled, "The Lake Charlevoix Watershed: Urban and Rural Solutions." The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) approved this grant to work with our partners to accomplish several important objectives.

First, we will complete research, analysis, and training for exciting work with local governments on water resource protection ordinances. Additionally, we will demonstrate cutting edge technologies for stormwater controls on rural roads, and also measure public understanding about stormwater work. Finally, we will complete the final steps necessary to update the Lake Charlevoix Watershed Management Plan. Partners on this grant include the Antrim Conservation District, MSU Extension, and the Northwest Council of Governments who will all implement specific portions of the project.

This critical work will begin in January 2010 and take place over two years. We will keep you updated on our progress and look forward to working with our project partners and the entire Watershed Plan Advisory Committee to achieve these vital objectives.

Shorelines Restored

Burt Lake, Columbus Beach

The Columbus Beach Club, with the professional help of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, has stabilized its shoreline.

Our shoreline at the southeast end of Burt Lake receives the brunt of winds and waves twelve months a year and ice breaking up at the end of winter. Over many years, the members of Columbus Beach Club have watched with concern as our shoreline eroded and threatened the integrity of our sidewalks. We called in the Watershed Council staff who recommended bioengineering solutions.

The Club did its shoreline in three sections. The coir bundle recommended by the Watershed Council is now completely incorporated into the shoreline with new vegetation on the first two sections. The third and most eroded stretch weathered its first winter well, and the beginnings of new growth stretched toward the lake by summer's end.

We hope that our experience encourages others to do their shoreline. We are thrilled with how well ours has worked and how helpful Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff was to work with. They did much of the leg work for us at a reasonable cost. And they found a contractor to do the project who had had experience with that kind of work.

*Mary Biddinger
and Tucker Harris,
Columbus Beach Trustees
Fall 2009*



Exposed roots and undercutting along the Columbus Beach Club shoreline as indicators of moderate to severe erosion.



Nearly a year after installing a bioengineering project, the Columbus Beach Club shoreline remains stable and protected.

We can help restore your shoreline too! For more information about our shoreline restoration program contact Jennifer Gelb at 231-347-1181 or by e-mail at jen@watershedcouncil.org.

Pigeon River Streambank Restoration

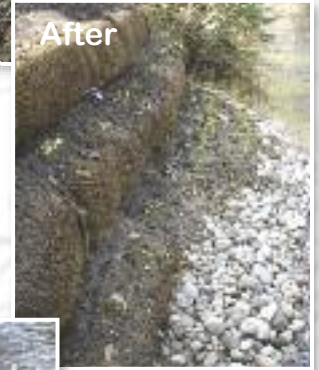
With the generous support of Mullett Area Preservation Society (MAPS), the Watershed Council provided bioengineering design, permit application services, and installation supervision to stabilize a stretch of Pigeon River stream bank. The bioengineering solution included using prefab soil lift structures made from coir (coconut fibers) and alternating with bare-root dogwood and ninebark shrubs. Cobble was installed at the toe of the streambank. In order to provide additional support to the streambank, the property owners have implemented a no-mow zone extending the length of the former slump. Installation was limited to hand tools to avoid further stress to the streambank.

"Without the able assistance of the professional staff at TOMWC we would be stymied as to how to keep restoring various problem areas of stream bank erosion on the Pigeon River that MAPS has been financing for many years."

- Mullett Lake Preservation Society (MAPS)



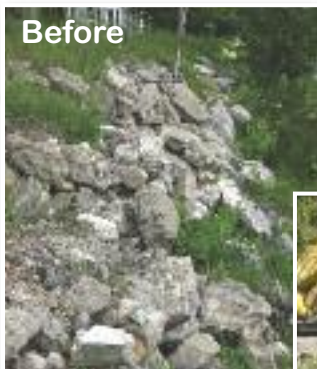
Approximately 35 linear feet on the Pigeon River slumped likely as a result of high water levels in early spring of 2008.



The exposed face of the soil lifts can be seen. Dogwood and ninebark saplings are planted between the layers.



Nearly one year after installation, the shrubs have begun to fill in and the slope remains stable. Over time, the project will become less and less evident as the vegetation grows and the area blends in with the natural riparian areas.



Large, broken pieces of concrete blanket the slope creating a hazardous approach to the lake.



During

Harbor Springs Excavating started by removing the concrete rubble to create a clean slate for New Savanna Landscape Company.



Native planting pockets are incorporated into fieldstone revetment.



Access to the lake can be gained safely by way of new stairs.

The Evangeline Township Park on Lake Charlevoix, Glenwood Beach Drive

The Evangeline Township Park at Glenwood Beach provides public access to Lake Charlevoix. Recognizing the need for a more user-friendly park that provides recreational opportunities while protecting water quality, the Township contracted with the Watershed Council to develop plans for a shoreline enhancement project, including a demonstration greenbelt.

"Evangeline Township is very happy with the new shoreline protection structure at Glenwood Beach, it looks really terrific. It was great working with Tip of the Mitt, whose staff was pleasant and professional, and whose guidance helped assure project completion."

Shannon McMaster, Boyne City
Assistant Planner/Zoning Administrator

Summer Events



Beetle Collection Volunteers
 (From left) Twin Lakes Association members Jerry Beehler, Linda Lansbach, and Susan Page (President)



Native Plant Sale Volunteers
 (From left) Barbara Lindsey, Connie Vorenkamp, David Spieser, and Trish Woolcott.



Lake Association Summit
 Participants gather to discuss what they have learned and share ideas.

Beetle Collection Days

A great group of participants collected beetles in Emmet and Cheboygan Counties in early June. The participants all gathered enough beetles to release in their respective locations where purple loosestrife has been identified as a threat to wetlands.

As an effective biological control of Purple Loosestrife, the tiny *Galerucella* beetle feeds on plant bud, leaf, and stem tissues. As a result, plants are heavily defoliated which, over time, will lead to plant death.

Native Plant Sale

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council held a Native Plant Sale in June. Volunteers organized native plants into 'kits.' An impressive 180 kits were ordered by people interested in the many benefits of using native plants in their landscape. Natives are typically lower maintenance and are more tolerant of stressful conditions. They also have a better 'fit' with the local landscape, enhance biodiversity, and help preserve the local natural heritage. Kits included mixtures of Michigan-genotype native plants from Wildtype Nursery in Mason, MI. The success of the Watershed Council's Native Plant Sale was due in large part to the efforts of our volunteers. Thank you!

Lake Association Summit

This year's Lake Association Summit gave participants a chance to network with other lake associations and an opportunity to learn about new technologies for communicating with their members, resources for fighting aquatic invasive species and more. A special thank you to Wal-Mart of Petoskey and the Network of Lake Associations for their financial support. We would also like to thank Claire Rasmussen, one of our newest volunteers, for her assistance with the organization of this event.

Lake Michigan Summits

Due to the increased interest in the health of our Great Lakes, the Watershed Council hosted two Lake Michigan Summits this year in Harbor Springs and Charlevoix. The Summits featured presentations by Watershed Council staff and other area organizations on the current health of Lake Michigan and Little Traverse Bay and how we can work together to restore and protect our magnificent waters. The Lake Michigan Summit in Harbor Springs also featured guest speaker Jeff Alexander, author of "Pandora's Locks".

(Below, center)
 Jacqueline Pilette, Wetlands Specialist, of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians collects beetles.

Galerucella beetle feeds on the foliage of a purple loosestrife.



(Above) Shelby Goss, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Intern, assists with assembling and labeling kits for the Native Plant Sale.

(Right) Leslie Burk, Ellen Kohler, Grenetta Thomassey, and Jennifer McKay celebrate the many accomplishments of the Watershed Council at the 30th Annual Meeting.



Whale of a Sale Nets a Profit!

(Top) Summer Burk, Elena Esposito, and Sadie Cwikiel hosted a bake sale to help support the Whale of a Sale. (Bottom) Shoppers browse the wide selection of items.

Whale of a Sale

Our newest fundraising event made a huge splash netting over \$9000! Donated sale items included kayaks, boats, boating accessories and hardware, fishing gear, life vests, rafts and toys, water skiing equipment, wet suits, and much more.

The Whale of the Sale event would not have been possible without the help of Michael Esposito and Irish Boat Shop staff. Many thanks for donations from our members and our business friends including Irish Boat Shop, Bear Cove Marina, Inc., Dewitt Marine, Inc., The Outfitter of Harbor Springs, Ryde Marine, and Walstrom Marine, Inc. – Propellers.



Celebrating 30 years of protecting our waters.

Bhavia Wagner, Ruth O'Gawa, Gail Gruenwald and Mark Paddock

30th Annual Meeting

July 2009 marked Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's 30th year of protecting Northern Michigan's waters. The event was celebrated with an old-fashioned family reunion style potluck luncheon at Petoskey's Waterfront Park. Friends, past employees, and volunteers gathered to reminisce about the past 30 years and discuss the future of the organization. Highlights included the celebration of Gail Gruenwald's 25th year with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and hilarious stories of the "early years" presented by past staff members Doug Fuller, Wil Cwikiel, Bhavia Wagner, and past board member Mark Paddock.

(Below) The family-style potluck luncheon was a huge hit with those that attended the 30th Annual meeting at Petoskey's Bay Front Park.



(Right) A windy day at the Bear River Cleanup was no challenge for Nancy Stewart and Ruth Clausen. They held down the registration table with ease.



Bear River Cleanup Volunteers

First time volunteers, the Burek family, cleaned two sections on the Bear River.

Bear River Cleanup

Together, volunteers and staff members removed approximately 52 bags of trash and several large items from the Bear River spanning approximately four miles before it enters Little Traverse Bay.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council extends their thanks to the many volunteers that participated this year, the City of Petoskey for the use of Mineral Park, and to the following businesses for donating food, drinks and supplies for our volunteers: Spicy Bob's, Wal-Mart, Meyer Ace Hardware, Roast & Toast, and Johan's Pastry Shop. Thank you also to the Emmet County Department of Public Works for waiving tipping fees for disposal of the trash collected. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our event sponsors, Petoskey Plastics and the Clanaad Foundation.



WELCOME New Members

May 22, 2009 - October 21, 2009

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

Mr. William R. Allen	Mr. and Mrs. Jon Karsten
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Baker	Dr. John H. Landon
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Bald	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Lope
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baldwin	Laura M. Lowrance
Mr. James W. Baliko	June Ludwig
Mr. and Mrs. David Berles	Mr. Robert Lyon
Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Bissell	Mr. Gary C. Malone
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Black	Mr. and Mrs. Max Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Noel Bufe	Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Moxley
Mr. Lawrence Campbell	Mr. and Mrs. Verne H. Osterlund
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. CasaSanta	Charles Otis
Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Chimner	Mr. and Mrs. William Pavelek
Ms. Carolyn T. Christy	Mr. John Pawelek
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Clara	Perennial Garden Club
Michael and Marcey Conn	Patricia and Russell Reid
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Sue Costa	Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Rorich
Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Cousino	Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Ross
Bob Stolt and Anne Couture	Mrs. Connie Ruggles
Mr. and Mrs. C. Howard Crane, II	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Decarli	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sebold
Mrs. William Garrock	Mr. and Mrs. George A. Sharpe
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gerlach	Timothy and Kathleen Shaw
Constance J. Grzanka	Heather Siersma
Charles and Susan Gustafson	Mr. and Mrs. Darrel E. J. O. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. James Hammond	Mr. and Mrs. W. James Sprow
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Hampshire	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Staich
Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Hansen	Mr. and Mrs. Gale Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Hawkins	Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Tulley
Stephen and Karen Hume	Mr. and Mrs. James R. Waterson
Verne and Judy Istock	Jim and Ann Wilderom
Dr. and Mrs. Jones	Ms. Charlotte E. Wilk
Patricia Jones	

THANK YOU...

Volunteer Lake Monitors for 25 years of data collection!

Volunteer Stream Monitors and experts for fall events, which makes 5 years of data collection.

Irish Boat Shop for the Boston Whaler maintenance.

Inland Waterway Museum and Wayne Blomberg for hosting our 2009 VLM training.

North Central Michigan College and Kathy Colby for hosting VSM Indoor Sorting/Identification events.

Glen's Market for supplying snacks and drinks for volunteer monitoring sessions.

Roast & Toast for delicious coffee at our events.

Mr. & Mrs. Myers for their assistance with Phragmites surveys on Little Traverse Bay this past summer.

Symons family and CAVA along with staff, Pascale Asbury, and Tom Kaszubowski for a wonderful Fusion event. Thanks to Symon's General Store, American Spoon Foods, and Julienne Tomatoes for delicious prizes.

Thank you to everyone who bought a Native Plant Kit!

Wildtype Nursery for assistance with organizing the Watershed Council's Native Plant Sale and providing plant labels free-of-charge.

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

Sharon Brown	Marge May
Tillie Cone	Maxine McDowell
Virginia Corpus	Irene Phelps
Doris Fedus	Virginia Stolt
Alice Hill	Sharon Van Meter
Carolyn Keller	

Native Plant Sale Kit Assembly Volunteers

David Spieser	Shelby Goss
Chris Leifson	Barbara Lindsey
Cody Beyer	Bill Stetson
Connie Vorenkamp	
Trish Woollcott	

Memorials

May 23, 2009 - October 27, 2009

Fred Conners

*Dolly Nethercot
Eugene and Patricia Pezon*

Martha Cameron

Mr. Scott Schaefer

Donna Carruthers

Heidi Hill and Bruce Davis

Dr Richard Courtney

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Pauli

Jack Couture

*Mr. Wilfred Belanger
Mr. and Mrs. Loren F. Bonney
Burns Investment Group
Mr. and Mrs. Martin T. Carroll
Cathy Brubaker-Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. John Cleasby
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Colombo
Craig Culbertson
Julie Delaurence
Mary K. Couture-Dobie and
Walter Dobie
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Duhamel
Mary Jane Galetto
Harbor Light Middle School Staff
Heart of the Hills Swim Club, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Hock*

Horizon Environmental

*Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kemp
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Lukos
Anna Maiuri*

Mary Lou Major

Mr. Ronald Mann

*Mr. and Mrs. Mike Matone
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McIntyre
Patricia McKay*

Mr. and Mrs. Mary O'Connor

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pearson

Mr. and Mrs. Don Pixley

Mr. Kenneth J. Price

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Taylor

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard L. Thibodeau

Thomas K. Lowry

*Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
MacDonald*

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Pineno

Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Shawl

Bonita Miller-Gilford

Ms. Linda Badalucco

Mary Shands

Heidi Hill and Bruce Davis

Ed Stenger

Ms. Mary B. Jolliffe

Virginia Stolt

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Betty Young

Steven and Linda Alexander

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.

Honorariums

May 23, 2009 - October 27, 2009

Noel and Mary Bufe

Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Rorich

Leslie Burk

Mr. and Mrs. Noel Bufe

Jayne Chickering

Chris and Jayne Chickering

Jennifer Gelb

Perennial Garden Club

Trey Graham

Sara H. Graham

Lorraine Mottern

Elk Rapids Garden Club

Valerie Olinik-Damstra

Hidden Valley Shores Association

2010 ICE BREAKERS

Break up your cold winter days with warm conversation on hot topics.

January

21 Quagga Quest
28 Policy Perspective

February

4 Environmental Architecture of the Grand Rapids Museum
11 Blue Ribbon Trout Streams

February (cont.)

25 A Closer Look at Deep Injections Wells

March

11 Native Plants
25 Bridging the Gap
A closer look at the Local Ordinance Gaps Analysis

This series is FREE and open to the public.
Watch for complete details coming in early January.

Join us for the Petoskey Holiday Open House

Friday, December 4



Enjoy Whitefish from Scalawag's

Volunteers of the Year

At our 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting held in July at beautiful Petoskey Bayfront Park, we were fortunate to recognize two Volunteers of the Year for their commitment to the Watershed Council's mission and programs.

David Spieser, owner of New Savanna Landscape Company, has done an extraordinary job of maintaining the Watershed Council's rain gardens and native landscaping at our downtown Petoskey office. Our gardens have never looked better! David also continues to provide contracting services for our Restoration Remedies program, and he spent untold hours helping to plan and organize our Native Plant Sale.

Michael Esposito, president of Irish Boat Shop, is one of our tireless Board Members. For many years, he has ensured that our "H2O Observer" Boston Whaler is kept ship shape through routine boat maintenance and winter storage. With Michael's can do attitude, he even helped raise more than \$9,000 at our first Whale of a Sale event. A big thank you to these two and all of our volunteers!



Michael Esposito with family at Whale of a Sale

Drop us a line or send us an e-mail with your thoughts before January 15th. Send snail mail Attn: Kristy Beyer or e-mail kristy@watershedcouncil.org

We want to know.

Over the winter months we start planning our "Wednesdays on the Water" series and we need your input. Do you prefer kayak tours that explore lakes or rivers or informative wetland walks? Do you like pontoon tours with our field experts or round tables that discuss current issues.

What would YOU like to do this summer?

Address Service Requested

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Petoskey, MI 49770



The voice for Northern Michigan waters.

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