



Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

426 Bay Street • Petoskey, MI 49770 • phone: (231) 347-1181 • fax: (231) 347-5928
email: info@watershedcouncil.org website: www.watershedcouncil.org

For Immediate Release

Photo Attached

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Contact: Kevin Cronk

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

231-347-1181

kevin@watershedcouncil.org

Bear River watershed teeming with life in the dead of winter

PETOSKEY, MI – Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's volunteer stream monitors gathered this past Saturday for the annual winter stream monitoring event. This year's event was held on two sites in the upper Bear River watershed. "The event is hosted each February to give people a chance to explore our amazing aquatic ecosystems and to see that macroinvertebrate life is still bountiful and thriving in the dead of winter" said Kevin Cronk, Monitoring and Research Coordinator for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Volunteer stream monitors had the opportunity to collect and examine aquatic insects, snails, crustaceans and other small invertebrates, which are used as bio-indicators to gauge the health of a stream. They focus on life in the stream, collecting aquatic "critters", such as mayflies and dragonflies, to evaluate water quality. The monitoring event also enabled three students from North Central Michigan College to build their reference collection of specimens. Cronk stated, "more than anything, it was a great way to socialize and enjoy getting in touch with water in the winter."

Additional volunteer stream monitors are always needed. If you would like to learn more about the Volunteer Stream Monitoring program or any of our upcoming events, please call Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at 231-347-1181 or e-mail kevin@watershedcouncil.org. Information about upcoming events hosted by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council can also be found on our website at www.watershedcouncil.org/events.

About Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: *Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council speaks for our members including full-time and seasonal residents, lake associations, and businesses. We work to maintain the environmental integrity and economic and aesthetic values of lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water in Northern Michigan, as well as statewide and throughout the Great Lakes Basin. As the lead organization for water resources protection in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties, the Watershed Council is working to preserve the heritage of Northern Michigan – a tradition built around our magnificent waters.*

Photo attached.

Caption: Volunteer stream monitors, (right to left) Kathy Colby, Diane Strzelinski, and Chrystal Pawlouski, examine samples pulled from the icy waters of the Bear River near Walloon Lake.

