



# Catalyst

SPRING 2014



## Support the **Mighty Monarch** Let your Milkweed Grow!

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is perhaps the most recognizable butterfly in North America. Famous for its migration that spans thousands of miles and three to four generations annually, monarchs are a remarkable natural phenomenon and one that needs our attention.

Monarch numbers have declined since the 1990s. Reasons for this include loss of overwintering sites in Mexico and California due to deforestation and habitat degradation as well as loss of breeding habitat due to the ongoing decline of native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.).

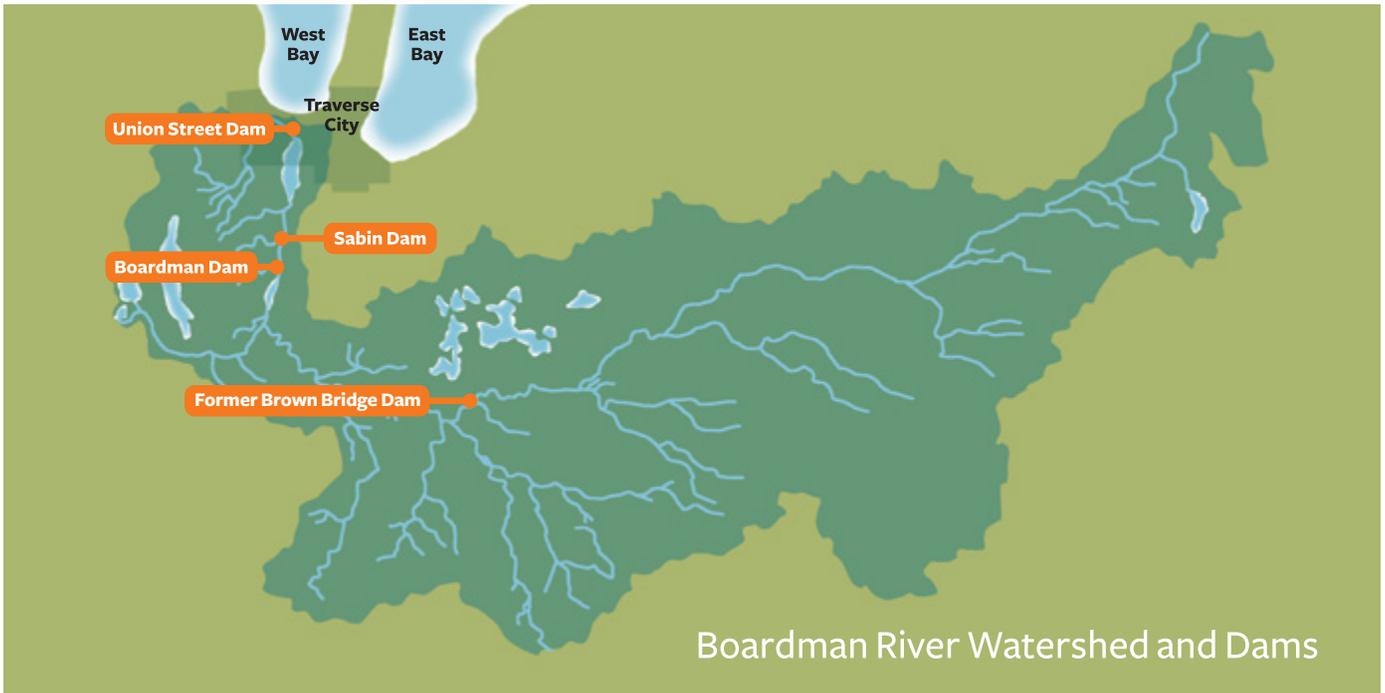
Milkweeds are a hardy, common, perennial wildflower. With well over 100 species, you can find them just about anywhere. They frequently grow in prairies, meadows, open woods, forest margins, wetlands and along riverbanks.

However, increased agricultural demand where few fields are left fallow combined with the development of rural lands and the use of mowing and herbicides to control pests have all diminished milkweed numbers.

Native milkweeds are integral to the monarch's survival. Milkweed flower nectar is not only a food for adult monarchs, but milkweed is also the only plant that monarchs lay their eggs on and caterpillars feed on! Feeding on milkweed provides the perfect nutrition for a growing monarch caterpillar and provides them with their main defense against predators. As the caterpillars feed on milkweed, the presence of cardenolide aglycones, a type of steroid, makes them foul-tasting and poisonous to predators throughout their larval and adult stages.

We can support the monarch by planting a variety of milkweed species and letting it live where it's found growing naturally. From white to pink to orange, their flowers add color and variety that's also great for wildlife. Keep an eye out for our spring appeal containing milkweed seeds for the monarch.

*Milkweeds like common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) pictured lower left, are critical to the survival of the monarch butterfly. They are a key source of food for the butterfly and the required host plant for their caterpillars. Help these famous flyers by letting your milkweed grow!*



## The Boardman: A River Reborn Phase II in Motion

It's not just the water above the former Brown Bridge Dam that's moving – the Implementation Team, the collaborative group of partners providing project oversight, is diving into phase II of the project. Efforts are currently focused on Boardman Dam and the adjoining Cass Road Bridge. This phase not only includes the removal of the dam, originally built in 1894, but also working with the Michigan Department of Transportation to build a two-lane bridge at this crossing. URS Corporation was contracted as the engineering firm over the winter and is working on site surveys and preliminary designs.

Partners are actively fundraising for the next phase of work. Support from local, state, federal, private and tribal partners has helped make this Michigan's largest dam removal project in the state's history and one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the Great Lakes Basin.

### History and Milestones

- 2004** Traverse City Light and Power discontinues hydropower generation at three dams on the Boardman River (Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams)
- 2005** The Boardman River Dams Settlement Agreement establishes the multi-party Implementation Team and the Boardman River Dams Committee charged with assessing and making recommendations regarding the fate of the three dams along with Union Street Dam
- 2008** An unprecedented community input process evaluates various options
- 2009** Grand Traverse County and the City of Traverse City decide to pursue removal of Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams and modification of Union Street Dam
- 2012** Brown Bridge Dam is removed and habitat is restored with lead support from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust

### Next Steps

- Boardman Dam removal, construction of new Cass Road Bridge, habitat restoration and evaluation of invasive species control
- Removal of Sabin Dam, habitat restoration and modification of Union Street Dam

### Ongoing

- Pre- and post-construction monitoring
- Stewardship activities including habitat enhancement and invasive species management

## Not Just for Fish Winter Wildlife and Instream Habitat

We often talk about instream habitat, known as large woody debris, benefiting fish. And it's true large woody debris in our rivers and streams improves the fishery. Benefits to fish include better and more diverse habitat, nursery habitat for juveniles and more food. However, it's not just our underwater friends that you'll find enjoying instream habitat.

Duck, geese, swans and other water loving birds often congregate near large woody debris, especially during the winter. Birds often find a smorgasbord of aquatic insects, known as aquatic macroinvertebrates, around submerged branches. In addition, areas behind these structures can offer a refuge from ice.

Muskrats, mink and otters may also be found in and around large woody debris. Otters do not build their own dens but depend on dens constructed by other animals or that occur naturally making the nooks and crannies of large woody debris very prized. Once spring hits, turtles and other reptiles can be found basking in the sun on branches. The micro-ecosystem created by large woody debris is important for a whole host of fish and wildlife.

Unfortunately, many of our Northern Michigan rivers and streams lack large woody debris. During the logging era, our waterways were intentionally cleared of debris to transport logs downstream. Additionally, trees growing closest to the rivers were cleared so nature's way of replenishing the habitat was gone.

We are helping restore our waters through the addition of large woody debris. For over a decade now staff and crew have placed whole trees, branches and root wads in key river stretches throughout Northern Michigan. CRA recently placed 2,000 feet of instream habitat in the Maple River (Emmet County), 3,000 feet in Arcadia Marsh (Manistee County), 6,000 feet in the Upper Manistee River (Kalkaska County), and nearly a mile in the Pine River (Lake County).

This year, efforts will focus on the Big Sable River (Mason County), Bear Creek (Manistee County), Pine River, Maple River and Little Manistee River (Manistee and Lake counties). Next time you are walking the river's edge, keep an eye out for what's above and below the surface!



*Large woody debris on the Boardman River presents waterfowl with a great place to find food and flowing water.*



## Timber Bridge Coming on the Little Betsie and Nessen Road

The first project in a new phase of work in the Betsie and Platte River watersheds kicks off this spring. Since 2008, CRA has completed over a dozen major projects in these watersheds including timber bridges, dam removals, wetland restoration and instream habitat work.

Located on the Little Betsie River and Nessen Road, the first site is the largest in this phase of work and on one of the most important tributaries to the Betsie River mainstem. Situated in the upper half of the wetland rich region, the project will reconnect eight miles of aquatic habitat and significantly reduce excess sediment from entering the river. The current 7.5 ft wide aging concrete structure (above) will be replaced with a 19 ft timber bridge.

Next up will be road/stream crossing improvements at North Branch Platte River and Gudemoos Road, Woodcock Creek and Burnt Mill Road, Red Creek and Haze Road, as well as instream habitat work on Dair Creek and the Betsie River.

We'd like to thank the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes program for investing in these often underfunded tributaries and keeping Northern Michigan on the map as an extraordinary water destination.



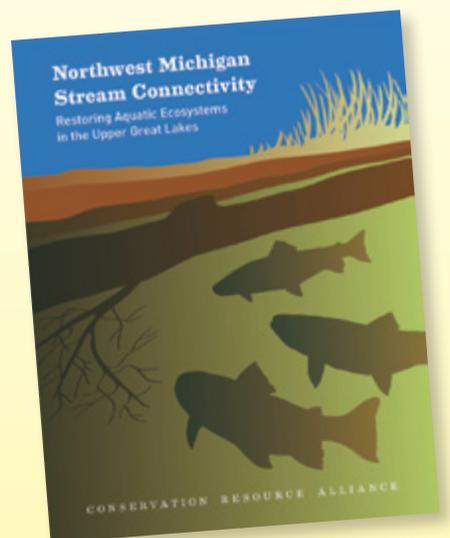
## Big Happenings on the **Little Manistee**

Our staff has had their feet on the ground in the Little Manistee Watershed inventorying erosion sites and scouting sites for instream habitat. An updated erosion inventory will soon be completed and available along with all of our watershed inventory data at [www.northernmichiganstreams.org](http://www.northernmichiganstreams.org)

Through the generous support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership and the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council, a big boost to instream habitat is also on its way. The Conservation Council has been actively improving the watershed and we'll be joining them to add at least another half-mile of instream habitat from Bear Track Campground to 9 Mile Bridge over the next two years. This work is helping to add habitat diversity and stabilize streambanks – a direct benefit to fish, aquatic insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

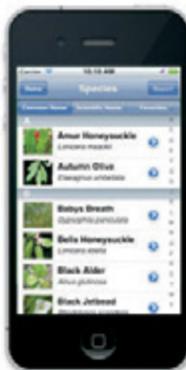
## Northwest Michigan **Stream Connectivity Report**

In 2010, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service awarded Conservation Resource Alliance grants totaling \$374,630 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership with the purpose of restoring fish passage, instream habitat and corridor habitat. Ultimately, these on-the-ground community-based projects opened up ~150 miles of habitat for native fish species and other aquatic organisms and restored more than 30 miles of instream habitat and 220 acres of riparian corridor habitat. Check out the full report online at [www.rivercare.org/publications](http://www.rivercare.org/publications)



## Free App to Report Invasive Species

A new smartphone app created by the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network is a great solution for reporting invasive plants and animals. Anyone with the app can quickly identify and report 230+ invasive plant and animal species right from the field including images and field notes. You can also learn about new threats by browsing images and species information on the top Midwest invaders. Search "MISIN" to download the app.



## Pere Marquette Headwaters Get a Boost

CRA and partners are slated to replace two road/stream crossings in the headwaters of the Pere Marquette in Lake County this summer. The first site is on Sanborn Creek and the second is a 1/2 mile down the road on a tributary to Sanborn Creek. Both of the 40th Street crossings are high on the priority list for restoration and combining them into one project saves significant time and money.

The total cost of restoration work is estimated at \$269,000. We'd like to thank the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lake County Road Commission and Pere Marquette Watershed Council for their support. Additional grant requests have been submitted to the Michigan DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service but we still need to raise \$59,000. Join us in this important work by making a donation. Visit us online at [www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org) or call 231-946-6817.

## About CRA

### Amy Beyer

Director

### Sue Antaya

Accounting

### Kimberly Balke

Biologist

### Eric Ellis

Biologist

### Chris Pierce

Biologist

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Annual Gifts Coordinator

### Jill Rowley

Administrative Assistant

### Matt Thomas

Development Coordinator

### Diane VanderVeen

Contracted Chief Financial Officer

### Nate Winkler

Biologist

In 1968, Conservation Resource Alliance was established with one goal – to preserve and protect Northern Michigan's waterways, wildlife, and forests for future generations. CRA is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Through our River Care™ and Wild Link™ programs, we restore and protect over 700 miles of rivers, 5,000 miles of tributaries and diverse forests throughout 4 million acres in 15 counties of Northern Michigan.

We've been able to care for this region's natural resources because our partners and supporters continue to be the backbone of our organization. Thank you to all of our members for supporting hands-on feet-wet conservation. If you haven't donated, please join us as a supporting member. Your commitment is critical to keep this important work moving forward.

[www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org)

# Thank You for Your **Recent Support** of CRA, River Care™ and Wild Link™

|                                      |                            |                                    |                                   |
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| Edwin Anderson                       | Ed & Elaine Harris         | Hank & Carol Ross                  | <b>Welcome New Members!</b>       |
| Dr. Steven P. Arnoczky               | Robert M. Hector           | Leonard Rossa                      | Wildlife & Wetlands Solutions     |
| Dick Augustine                       | Geoff & Mary Sue Heidbrink | Jon & Robin Rowe                   | Jon Griffin                       |
| Kimberly Balke                       | Jerry Heiman               | Jill & Preston Rowley              | Douglas Orr                       |
| Bernard & Kathryn Barnett            | Dick Hitchingham           | Tom Rozich                         | Sarna Salzman & Brian Beauchamp   |
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| Tony & Susan Baynard                 | Rick & Lotsie Holton       | Art Schwarm                        | John Wyrwas                       |
| Mrs. Virginia Bennetts               | John & Joan Hutto          | Bernard & Phyllis Senske           |                                   |
| Theodore & Judith Bernhard           | H.E. James                 | Dirk Shorter                       |                                   |
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| Charles Bloom                        | Mark E. Johnson            | Robert & Marilyn Smith             |                                   |

## SAVE the DATE

### 10th Anniversary Great Lakes Restoration Conference

Hosted by the Healing Our Waters® Great Lakes Coalition

September 9-11th, 2014

DeVos Convention Center  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

## Coming and Going at Tippy Dam

The Manistee River below Tippy Dam is one of the most heavily fished public waters in the state. With salmon and steelhead runs, anglers use the public land below the dam for access year round. With all the traffic, partners have worked to install walkways, stairways and fencing to direct recreational pressure away from environmentally sensitive areas. Several sites were in need of upgrading along an eroded trail system through the state-owned land below the dam. CRA worked with the Michigan DNR to minimize traffic on delicate areas, reduce erosion through terracing, and make access sites safer by adding fences and leveling pathways. Help us keep the river healthy and visitors safe by using designated access trails.

## Thank You Boathouse and Hawkins Outfitters

CRA friends gathered at the Boathouse restaurant on Old Mission Peninsula for an exquisite evening of great dining for a great cause. The Boathouse offered a four course Michigan Wild Game Wine Dinner in February and donated \$10 from each meal to CRA. In addition, Hawkins Outfitters donated a guided fly fishing trip that was auctioned at the dinner. Please help us in thanking the Boathouse and Hawkins Outfitters for their generous support. The dinner will be an annual event so look for it next February!

## New License Fees Good News for Resources

Michigan's comprehensive restructuring of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses should be a good move for the state's natural resources. The long overdue change went into effect March 1. The new system simplifies the prior 227 license options down to 42 making purchasing and enforcement much easier. Despite Michigan's ranking as one of the top states in the nation for public land and recreational opportunities, this is the first license increase in 17 years. Inflation along with declining revenue has taken a toll in recent years on DNR's ability to maintain necessary staffing and programs that benefit the state's world-class resources.

Highlights of the new system are the requirement of a base hunting license that includes small game hunting and the ability to purchase licenses for other species. Although a base license is not required for fishing, a basic license now allows anglers to fish for all species. A convenient hunt/fish combo license is available that includes a base hunting license, all-species fishing and a deer combo license - a package that is popular with many sportsmen.

The real upshot of this restructuring and associated fee increase is the \$18 million annual revenue that the state anticipates it will generate for the DNR. That is good news as these funds will improve natural resource management throughout the state and will result in additional conservation offices, biologists, habitat improvement projects and grants.

For more information on the new license structure and fees, visit:  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



**Yes!** I Want to Support CRA & Practical Conservation!  
Enclosed is my CRA Membership contribution:

Supporter  \$100  \$50  \$35 Please Charge My Credit Card

Leader  \$500  \$250  Visa  Master Card

Patron  \$5000  \$1000 Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Sm Business \$100  Lg Business \$500 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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My employer will match (send forms)

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Credit card payments are also accepted online at: [www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org)

Make all checks payable to:  
Conservation Resource Alliance  
10850 Traverse Highway, Suite 1180  
Traverse City, MI 49684

**Thank you!**



SPRING 2014



## Conservation Resource Alliance

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[www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org)

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### Field Technician Position Open

CRA is seeking a Field Technician to enhance our ability to identify and prioritize restoration projects, expand our reach to private landowners and boost opportunities for volunteer engagement. A key component of this position will be conducting road/stream crossing inventories in the field. The technician will be part of a two-person crew throughout the field season. Please visit us online for more details. Interested candidates can send their resume and cover letter to Jill Rowley at [jill@rivercare.org](mailto:jill@rivercare.org) or 10850 Traverse Hwy, Ste. 1180, Traverse City, MI 49684.

### Stewardship Spotlight Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions

Vickie Smith envisioned a company that combined her passion for fisheries and wildlife with a practical, approachable commercial business. Thus, Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, a restoration contractor based in Traverse City, was born. The company aids private landowners and agencies in every aspect of wildlife habitat planning, enhancement and restoration. Key services include wildlife and wetland habitat management, invasive species control and environmental education.

And now, Smith can add nonprofit supporter to the list. CRA partnered with Smith to control invasive plants and plant native trees and shrubs during our 1,720 acre restoration of the Flowing Well property. In addition, the business recently donated to join our membership program. Its win-win opportunities like this between private businesses and the nonprofit sector that really boost the economy and environment of Northern Michigan.

*Printed on eco-friendly tree free paper.*