

Catalyst

Northwest
Conservation Resource Alliance

Spring 2005



Mission Accomplished!

A major goal has been reached in the Betsie River watershed: all eroding streambanks reaching to Homestead Dam have been stabilized. This was an original goal of the Betsie River Watershed Restoration Committee that formed in 1991 in response to the Thompsonville Dam washing out in the flood of 1989. The collapse of the dam washed tons of sand and silt downstream and further aggravated already sensitive streambanks on the Betsie River. Since the Restoration Committee's inception, 70 severely and moderately eroding banks on 40 miles of the Betsie mainstem have been restored. This has involved 5,500 yards of fieldstone, 8,500 lineal feet of steep, sandy bank and 42,000 tree and shrub plantings. In addition, 1,000 feet of habitat structures and woody debris have been incorporated into bank work to provide fish cover and wildlife resting spots. Says Restoration Committee Chair, Anne Kaminski, "It seemed an impossible task at the time. Amazingly, here we are in 2005 having completed the task!" It has taken approximately \$750,000 in grants and donations, and countless volunteer hours over the last 14 years to reach this milestone for the Betsie River. The MDEQ Clean Michigan Initiative and Federal 319 Programs, MDNR, Adams and Pine River TU



Revegetation is the finishing touch for repaired streambanks.

Chapters, townships, Michigan River Guides Association, CRA, landowners and others have all provided support towards this major effort. Congratulations on a job well done!

Upcoming projects on the Betsie River include the Dair Creek dam removal, road/stream crossing work, sand trap operation, instream habitat projects, Salmon in the Classroom, and any streambank maintenance needs.



Trout Unlimited: A Get-it-Done Partner

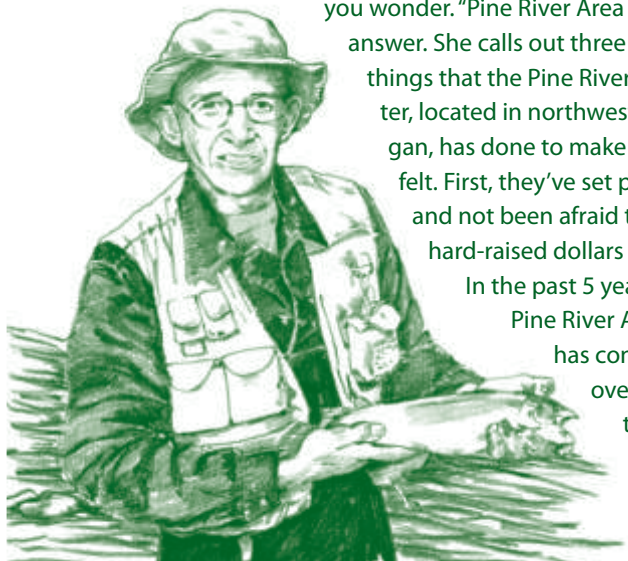
"No single organization has been a truer friend to northwest Michigan's Rivers," says Amy Beyer, CRA's Director. "Who's that?" you wonder. "Pine River Area TU," is her

answer. She calls out three important things that the Pine River Area chapter, located in northwest lower Michigan, has done to make their impact felt. First, they've set priorities, and not been afraid to put their hard-raised dollars behind them.

In the past 5 years alone, the Pine River Area chapter has contributed over \$30,000 to habitat

improvement projects on the Pine and Betsie Rivers (and that's cold cash!). Other high-priority streams that this chapter supports include the Little Manistee and the Big Manistee Rivers. Second, the members have put themselves and the chapter firmly behind tough and controversial issues. A long list of such issues includes State Natural Rivers designation on the Pine and upper Manistee Rivers and use regulation by the U. S. Forest Service on national forest portions of the rivers. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Pine River Area chapter members exemplify Trout Unlimited's commitment and mission by putting their personal time into effective leadership roles with watershed steering committees, workbees, and conservation events. This is where the real changes are made that will impact future quality of Michigan's rivers. Thanks!

Trout Unlimited and CRA share a vision of restoring northern Michigan's premier coldwater fisheries





Brett Fessell, Biologist for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, educates kids about stream invertebrates as part of the annual Salmon in the Classroom project on the Betsie River.

Tribal Grant Improves Habitat

The Grand Traverse Band's commitment to impact natural resource physical improvements, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and stewardship education is ongoing through a revenue sharing grant of \$20,000 for the Conservation Resource Alliance's River Care Program. CRA and G.T. Band members will continue to work together on watershed management field activities such as canoe float trips, tree planting, habitat improvement, monitoring, and youth education projects throughout the Band's 6 county service area. The Grand Traverse Band has invested \$110,000 in River Care from their 2% revenue sharing allocations over the past five years, helping insure that future generations will be able to enjoy our rivers, lakes, and forests.



Egeler Retires With 35-Years Of Service

Long-standing CRA Board member Judy Egeler retired in early 2005 after 35 years of service to the organization. Board Chairman, Dan Hubbell, recognized Egeler's contributions to CRA's financial and fundraising programs. "Judy was one of the original leaders," he said, "serving as the organization's Treasurer and Secretary during a period of tremendous growth and change." Hubbell states that Egeler, who also serves as the Administrator for the Leelanau Conservation District, "brought us an important perspective from one of CRA's primary partner organizations. There are 12 conservation districts in our 13-county service area, and we've partnered with every one of them at one time or another." Hubbell says that CRA typically gets involved in multi-county conservation projects to aid with fundraising, technical and engineering assistance, formal contracting, and grant administration, while single-county projects are often deferred to the local conservation district. Egeler was serving as Board Secretary at the time of her retirement. Treasurer responsibilities were shifted in 2000 to Mark Hepler, who is also Vice President, Finance, for Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

Sunny skies and a big crowd of winter enthusiasts helped make Crystal Mountain's Sustainable Slopes event a big success. Janice Skocelas of Crystal Mountain and Matt Thomas, CRA Development Coordinator, recruited new supporters and helped some lucky skiers win great prizes, including a season ski pass!



Greens Fore Streams

Come Play A Round with CRA

The second annual Greens fore Streams benefit golf outing has been scheduled for June 1st at Crystal Mountain Resort's Mountain Ridge course. Anyone that participated in last year's event knows this is guaranteed to be a fun day of golf, friendship and celebration that will raise support for CRA's conservation efforts throughout northern Michigan. Scientific Anglers-3M has returned as title sponsor. We will again offer fly casting demonstrations and contests, great outdoor recreation prizes and a hole-in-one vehicle will make this event the one you won't want to miss this summer. The four person team best ball tournament offers great golfers as well as those not so accomplished, a chance to share a day on the links and banquet with others that care about sensible conservation. Individuals and teams may register for \$85 per person by contacting CRA at 231-946-6817. Opportunities for hole and special event sponsors are available and donations of prizes and silent auction items are needed. Call early to sign up and help support CRA.



Orvis Guides Support River Care

Spending time on northern Michigan streams is the best way to fully understand the wonder of these beautiful resources as well as the problems they face. When you rely on river fisheries for your livelihood, that appreciation can grow even deeper. Kim Balke, CRA biologist and project manager, recently updated the Orvis Endorsed Lodges, Outfitters, and Guides (ELOG) regarding progress being made through the River Care Program throughout our region, with special emphasis on the Baldwin River. Hosted by the Pere Marquette River Lodge in Baldwin, this group of river dogs pitched in by donating the proceeds from a raffle of a new Orvis T-3 rod toward River Care. Orvis has supported critically important restoration effort on the Baldwin, a key Pere Marquette headwaters tributary, through corporate donations and customer outreach. Thank you to all of our Orvis friends and supporters for helping improve some of Michigan's great rivers.

What's Happening in the Manistee Watershed?

If you ask CRA Project Manager Mark Johnson what will be happening in the Manistee watershed this field season, you will get an earful. "At least four road crossing projects are planned for Manistee County (two on Pine Creek, one on Sickle Creek, and one on Bear Creek), with two additional crossings in Wexford County. Three stream banks are planned for restoration through the EPA watershed restoration project being carried out in cooperation with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians."

There are existing commitments as well. The River Care Kids Tippy Dam clean up will take place in late spring and the fifth year of woody debris placement on the Manistee below Hodenpyl Dam will happen this fall. Sounds like it will be another busy field season on the Manistee!



Habitat Rejuvenated

Recently, the Maple River Farm in Emmet County was the location for a Wild Link project focused on improving American woodcock and ruffed grouse habitat. The first phase of a 50-acre rotational mowing pattern was implemented to maintain the young, thick, and protective cover necessary for better survival rates of woodcock and grouse.

"We really appreciate the involvement of private landowners in helping achieve Wild Link's goals of protecting and

enhancing these corridors," said Jeff Breuker, Wild Link Project manager.

"Many thanks go out to landowner Paul Keiswetter, Farm Manager Cindy Drier, and the Frey Foundation for making this project possible."



Subcontractors roll out straw mulch matting to help revegetate the embankments at Indian Bridge.

Progress on the Pere Marquette

The Pere Marquette Restoration Committee is happy to report that in the last 5 years, 32 road crossings have been replaced throughout the Pere Marquette Watershed at an estimated construction cost of \$2,600,000. CRA and partners are very thankful for support from the US Forest Service, MDOT, MDEQ, townships, road commissions, Trout Unlimited and the Pere Marquette Watershed Council.

There are 133 crossings in the watershed that still need to be improved. "That makes for a pretty big "to do" list but if we keep taking this partnership approach those sites can be redesigned and newly constructed by the time I retire!" claims Project Manager, Kim Balke. "We are off to a great start," she continues. "The Pere Marquette River Restoration Committee is 20% of the way towards repairing all the road/stream crossings in the watershed!"

Saginaw Anglers Help Out

Matt Thomas and Amy Beyer got a chance in March to thank the William B. Mershon Chapter of Trout Unlimited, based in Saginaw, Michigan, for a contribution toward CRA's exciting "Headwaters" project on the Pere Marquette River.

Matt Thomas said, "We always love the chance to meet River Care partners in person." He said Chapter President, Chris Radke, and past president, Bo Brines, who also owns the Little Forks Outfitters, in Midland, welcomed CRA with a top-notch chapter meeting, complete with a walleye dinner. CRA's presentation included a status report on the erosion control project, where over 1,000 feet of eroding streambank on the PM's Baldwin River were treated in 2004. CRA estimates this phase of work will prevent around 50 tons per year of sediment from entering the river. Fundraising for the second phase, estimated to cost \$80,000, has been kicked off with a \$20,000 gift from the Whirlpool Corporation.

Thank you for your recent support of CRA, River Care™ and Wild-Link™

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*In memory of Alec Beyer
 Bill Johnson*

*In memory of Jeanette B.
 Flannery
 Bob & Marlene Flannery*

*In memory of Tom Hall
 Ken Gum*

*In memory of Donald Hill
 Michael & Teresa Parshall*

*In memory of Dee Thomas
 John Thomas*





Wanted: 300 New Supporters – Your Help Is Needed!

CRA's annual membership/fund campaign kicked off in December and has attracted many new businesses and individuals that have contributed to help support CRA's mission. We need your help to reach our goal of 300 new supporting members in 2005. The power of many people with shared interests in natural resource conservation is making a big impact for northern Michigan. You can make a difference. Please consider joining CRA as a supporting member and renewing your commitment to sensible stewardship if you have helped us in the past. Use the contribution form in this issue of the Catalyst, visit www.rivercare.org to join through our secure website, or give CRA a call at (231)946-6817. Remember, we'll send you a beautiful CRA t-shirt featuring a new original watercolor image of a river otter, by artist Richard Forrest just for joining. Tell a friend about your involvement and ask if they would like to become a CRA member and partner. Gift memberships, memorials, honorariums, estate and planned gifts are other great ways to help us reach our goals. Thank you to everyone that has shared his or her time, talent, and money with the Conservation Resource Alliance.

Yes! I Want to Support CRA & Practical Conservation!

Enclosed is my CRA Membership contribution:

Contributor \$30 Supporter \$50 Sponsor \$100

Benefactor \$500 Patron \$1000 Other \$ _____

Business Membership: Small \$100 Large \$500

Special recognition and employee benefits available

I would like to make a special contribution of \$ _____

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Name: _____

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Send Free T-Shirt, Size: S M L XL XXL

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Please Charge My Credit Card Visa Master Card

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Credit card payments are also accepted on line at: rivercare.org

Your donation is tax-deductible. Make all checks payable to:
Conservation Resource Alliance

10850 Traverse Highway, Suite 1111, Traverse City, MI 49684

Thank You For Your Support!

Look Out Fish!



On October 13, 2004, CRA's Director Amy Beyer, her husband Chuck and daughter Emily welcomed Joseph Charles Beyer into their family. Joseph is an easy keeper at 6 pounds 9 ounces and 20 inches long.

He's already equipped with an ultralight rig, bobber, and worm, along with a pop gun for Fall. Amy and Chuck adopted Joseph and brought him home from the hospital in Petoskey where he was born. Congratulations Amy and Chuck on adding another legal fishing line!

Welcome Mackenna



On Sunday, March 20 a new addition to the Johnson family arrived. CRA Biologist Mark Johnson and his wife Diana welcomed Mackenna Marie into the world. Mackenna weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces

and measured 21 1/2 inches. Congratulations Mark and Diana on your beautiful baby girl!



**Conservation
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10850 Traverse Highway Suite 1111
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Phone: (231) 946-6817
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Stewardship Spotlight

Activating Green Teams, groups of employees that get involved with hands-on environmental and conservation projects, takes a corporate commitment above and beyond the typical. DTE Energy takes community leadership for conservation very seriously. In addition to helping fund exceptionally important initiatives, including CRA's River Care Program, DTE Energy encourages employees to participate, investing their own time and talents to make an impact. Activities include everything from cleaning up litter to

planting trees and helping with stream restoration. A large group of Green Team employees from all over Michigan enjoyed a day with CRA staff on a Betsie River float trip to learn first hand what challenges northern Michigan streams.

Big problems take many partners and a willingness to invest for the future. DTE Energy has become a key stakeholder in both the northern Michigan business community and the conservation community. Working with CRA and the watershed partnership model, their River Care investment has helped facilitate numerous high priority projects including the replacement of the dilapidated Green River Bridge on the pristine Jordan River watershed. This type of leadership by example helps to maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone living, working, and visiting in northern Michigan. CRA is proud to be working with DTE Energy to benefit our region.

PCA Invests in Manistee

The Manistee based Packaging Corporation of America has continued their support of CRA's River Care Program with a contribution of \$2,000. PCA has invested nearly \$25,000 in River Care restoration projects focused on the very important Manistee River watershed, setting an example of community leadership for preserving natural resources in northern Michigan. Thank you to Packaging Corporation of America and Mill Manager, Robert Peretin, for their commitment to River Care.

