



## Going Wild in Northern Michigan

Greetings! My name is Eric Ellis, I'm CRA's new Wild Link Program Manager and Biologist. I'm a native Michigander and am extremely excited to join the CRA staff. I feel fortunate to be part of a group that consistently goes beyond basic advocacy

work to complete tangible natural resource projects throughout the most beautiful part of Michigan.

When I first heard of the Wild Link program I was impressed with its scope and direction. It fills an important niche in the local conservation community and plays a complimentary role to the work of other regional groups. CRA's Wild Link program focuses on private landowners and voluntary agreements to provide them with a broad habitat management plan. Often overlooked, private lands provide valuable wildlife habitat and often comprise the corridors between public lands already under management.

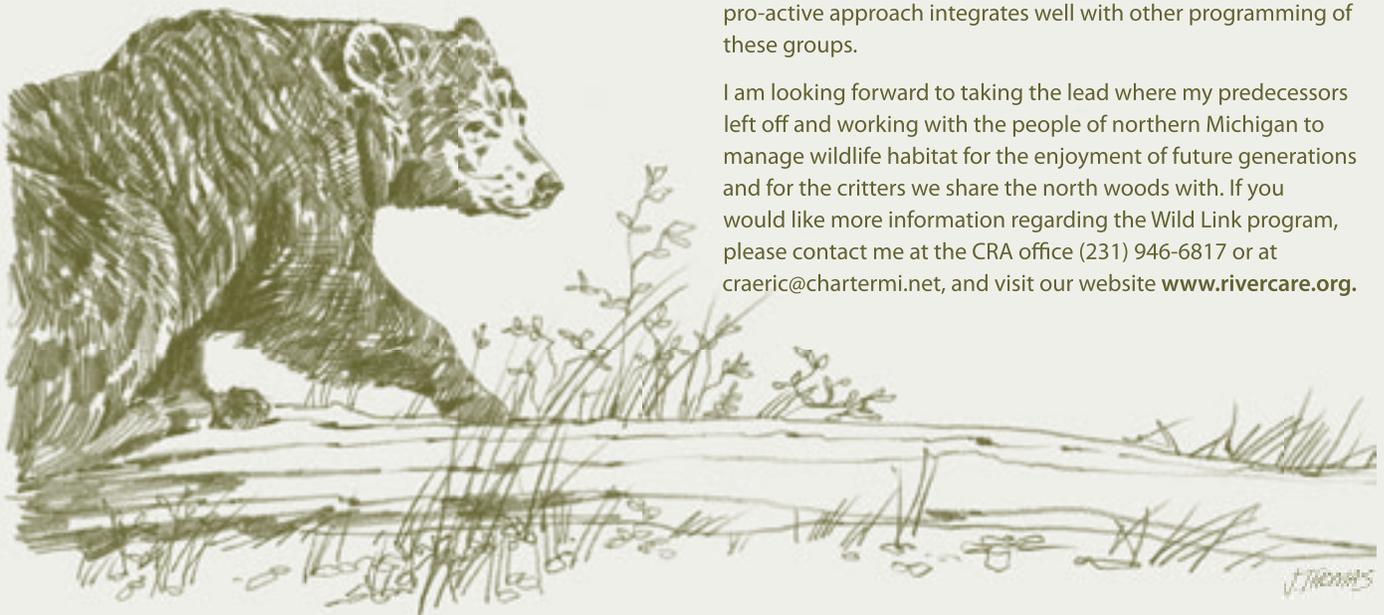
Landowner management plans can include, but are not limited to, improvements for wildlife viewing, hunting opportunities, and timber production. There is no fee for writing the plans. There are no contracts involved. No public access is required. Primary goals are to meet landowner needs,

improve wildlife habitat, and keep species from becoming endangered. We provide another option to landowners as they plan for the future of their property.

The first task on my plate is the expansion of Wild Link into the rapidly developing Grand Traverse region, which will be based on the success of Wild Link in Emmet and Charlevoix Counties. The Grand Traverse expansion is especially timely considering the rate that large chunks of private lands are being parceled up in the area. According to a March 22nd Detroit Free Press article, the populations of Grand Traverse and Benzie Counties grew 9% and 10% respectively from 2000 to 2006. These gains were the second and third highest county increases in the state! The time is high to address this increase and assist private landowners who want to play a role in keeping critical ecological corridors intact.

The Wild Link program is currently funded by grants from Rotary Charities of Traverse City, the Americana Foundation, the USDA Conservation Innovation Grant program, Frey Foundation, Michigan Coastal Management Program, US Fish & Wildlife Coastal Program, participating landowners, and CRA's River Care program. Over a dozen local partner organizations have embraced the Grand Traverse Expansion project and the list is growing as momentum builds. Land use, protection, and conservation are northern Michigan's hot issues and Wild Link's pro-active approach integrates well with other programming of these groups.

I am looking forward to taking the lead where my predecessors left off and working with the people of northern Michigan to manage wildlife habitat for the enjoyment of future generations and for the critters we share the north woods with. If you would like more information regarding the Wild Link program, please contact me at the CRA office (231) 946-6817 or at [cracric@chartermi.net](mailto:cracric@chartermi.net), and visit our website [www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org).



## Here's What's Happening...



### ***Dair Creek Recovery Project Launched***

CRA and Betsie River Partners are happy to report that the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust has kicked off the construction phase of work with a \$50,000 grant for the Dair Creek Recovery Project. Dam removal, instream habitat work, erosion control and road/stream crossing replacements are all involved in this effort to fix Dair Creek near where it joins the Betsie River. The problem started in 1865 when a portion of this creek was rerouted to a man-made channel, and a dam was built to power a sawmill and provide for a fishing pond. After several dam failures and reconstructions, the pond is now gone and numerous problems with this stream remain. Dair Creek is a heavily forested, coldwater tributary to the Betsie River that provides prime escape and spawning habitat for trout and salmon. The Pine River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Embrace-A-Stream Program have also contributed \$2500 each towards construction. Proposals are pending with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, FishAmerica Foundation, NOAA, Great Lakes Commission and others to raise the \$250,000 needed over the next two years to do all Dair Creek Recovery work. If you would like more information about the project or how you can contribute, contact Project Manager Kim Balke at 231-946-6817.



### ***Maple River Improvements***

Staying consistent with CRA's upstream to downstream approach to reducing sedimentation into our magnificent waterways, two new road/stream crossing projects are emerging on the horizon. CRA looks forward to an opportunity that creates a unique situation of replacing the two uppermost crossings over the West Branch Maple River, Emmet County. Plans are underway for new crossings on Robinson Road (2007) and Pleasant View Road (2008). Benefits to the projects include reinstated fish passage, allowing access to approximately 12 miles of headwaters of the Maple River and reduction of negative impacts to aquatic habitat from erosion and warming of waters at the crossing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Frey Foundation, Baiardi Family Foundation, U.S.D.A. Conservation Innovation Grant and others have generously provided funding and support for these projects.

*CRA Project Manager Chris Pierce analyzes failing culverts at the Robinson Road site.*





## Greens Fore Streams

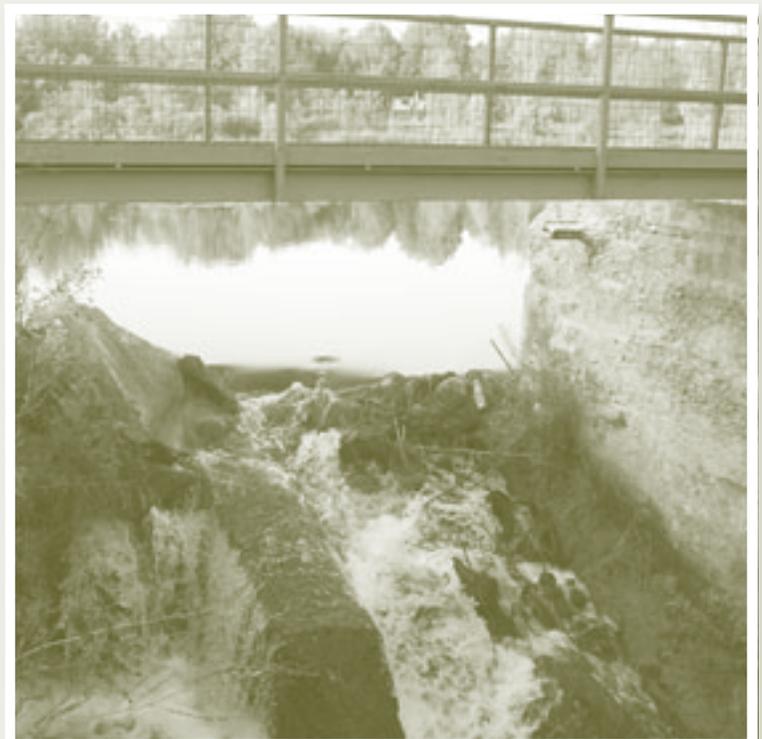


### ***Scramble for Fun and Rivers***

In the fall of 2003, when we started planning the first Green Fore Streams we really didn't know how much fun a golf outing would be. What we did know is that we had the perfect location, lots of great people to invite, and a bunch of folks that were interested in helping make this event a big success. This winning combination and bluebird skies three years in a row (although last year the sprinkles worried us at the start) have resulted in over \$70,000 being raised for CRA's work and mission. We are pleased to invite everyone to join us for the fourth year of Greens Fore Streams on Wednesday May 30th at the fabulous Crystal Mountain Resort Mountain Ridge course. Scientific Anglers-3M has returned as our generous title sponsor. Bruce Richards will return with world-class fly-casting demonstrations and contests for everyone to enjoy. Golfer registration is still \$100 per person, \$400 for a foursome team and includes the 18-hole scramble format, cart, contests, snack lunch, reception, and buffet dinner. Bob Garner will again emcee the ceremonies and auction. Get signed up by returning the registration form in the Greens Fore Streams mailer or by giving us a call at 231-946-6817 to register a team, individual golfers, become a hole sponsor, or to donate prizes. We need your help and participation. See you on the links!

### ***The Future of the Manton Millpond Dam***

In cooperation with the City of Manton and DNR Fisheries Division, CRA has issued an engineering Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to assist the city in determining options for the future of the dam and the millpond. Once selected, CRA will contract the engineering firm to work with CRA, the City of Manton, and DNR to develop alternatives and associated costs. Options for the future can then be analyzed. Originally constructed in 1919, the dam is currently in very poor condition and poses a risk to downstream property and public safety in the event of a failure. Any questions about this project should be directed to Project Manager Mark Johnson at 231-946-6817.



# Thank you for your recent support of CRA, River Care™ and WildLink™

Antrim County	Kathy Baker	William Garvey	Steven Morris	William and Gloria Thomson
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Paradise Lake Association	Bob and Betsey Dahlgren	Shawn, Holly and Hope Kanouse	Nathaniel Rowe	Robert and Alison DeVilbiss
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Shepherd Lincoln-Mercury	Charles and Carole Dilla	Michael and Tami Livengood	Alan and Cheryl Slater	Jennifer Prewitt
Scientific Anglers-3M	Fred Dorsett	Robert Livengood	Jacob Snider	<i>In memory of Jack Bates Sr.</i>
Trapline Productions	Judy Egeler	Laura Lyons	Jim and Sylvie Squier	Howard and Lillian Holmstrom
Trout and Salmon Foundation	Robert Evans	Peter and Anne Magoun	Harry Stephenson	<i>In memory of Janet Beyer</i>
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## Welcome Pat!

Pat Kochanny of Tustin was recently elected to CRA's Board of Directors. A passionate conservationist, Pat also serves as Chairman of the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited. His background includes wide-ranging volunteer work for community groups, youth causes and criminal justice programs. Pat's devotion to Michigan's coldwater resources and his leadership abilities will greatly add to CRA's efforts!



## Welcome Eric!

After a long search, CRA welcomed Eric Ellis to our staff as the Project Manager for the Wild Link program. He will lead CRA's efforts to protect connected green space and habitat as the region grows, working with private landowners who volunteer to participate. Eric holds a Resource Ecology and Management degree for the University of Michigan and an M.S. degree from the University of Idaho's College of Natural Resources. He enjoys backpacking with his wife, Diana, bow hunting and road biking. Prior to joining CRA's staff, Eric guided fly-fishing trips in Mongolia and did ecological restoration work for the City of Ann Arbor. For more information about the Wild Link program, see our cover article or call Eric at 231-946-6817.

### 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*
- My employer will match my gift (please send forms)
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Credit card payments are also accepted at: [www.rivercare.org](http://www.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!**

## Plan Now to Make A Difference

So often our friends and partners let us know how good it feels to help support CRA and our projects and wish they could do more. Fulfilling one's giving goals from working income can be difficult. But, it is possible to have a greater impact and leave a legacy by including the Conservation Resource Alliance in your will and estate plans.

Please remember CRA and the special places that you care about so deeply with a generous bequest in your will or trust. Your future gift will support the important real work projects that restore, preserve, and protect some of Michigan's most beautiful rivers, forests, and wildlife. Your commitment to these places can be carried on.

If you've already included CRA in your estate planning, please let us know so we can thank you. With your support, Michigan's rich natural heritage and resources will be enjoyed by future generations.

Please contact us to discuss planned giving options.  
Matt Thomas, Development Coordinator  
(231) 946-6817 [cramatt@chartermi.net](mailto:cramatt@chartermi.net)

*Always consult your advisors about philanthropic gifts.*



**Conservation  
Resource Alliance**  
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## ***Stewardship Spotlight - The Northern Angler***

When Kirk Novak left behind a 12-year career as a stockbroker in southeast Michigan he knew there was an opportunity out there, he just didn't know for sure what or where it was. His search for something new and hopefully a little less stressful led him and his family to Traverse City, a place that felt a little like the city, but with a much more relaxed lifestyle. After exploring a number of business ideas, The Northern Angler took the lead as his next adventure. Located at 312 Union Street in the heart of TC's Old Town, the area's newest fly fishing shop opened in 2003. Kirk has created a premier store stocked with a great selection of some of the best brands available. He also has succeeded in providing a comfortable place for anyone interested in fly fishing to browse the latest gear, tackle, fly tying tools and materials, books, and clothing. The Northern Angler also offers professional guide service, fly tying and fishing classes for experts and beginners alike, everyone is welcome.

But Kirk's passion runs deep when it comes to the resources that support his business. He is a Director for the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a business member of CRA and supporter of many events like Greens Fore Streams, and has always been involved with land conservation and protection. Kirk says it best; "There are so many resource opportunities in northern Michigan. It's a paradise that must be kept pristine and not taken for granted. CRA and TU do good hands-on work as well as educating people what's at stake."

Drop in and check out the Northern Angler at 312 South Union St. Traverse City, Ph- (231) 933-4730 or visit their website- [www.thenorthernangler.com](http://www.thenorthernangler.com).

Thank you Kirk and The Northern Angler for helping make a difference!

