



## ***Land Owners Embrace Wild-Link***

This spring, CRA has been working with landowners to complete on-the-ground projects to preserve the rural character of northwest lower Michigan. Wild-Link aims to protect and enhance ecological corridors that contain suitable habitat which provide various wildlife species the opportunity to travel, disperse, or migrate from one area to another. Corridors also contain important plant communities.

Voluntary cooperation by private landowners is essential to the success of Wild-Link. The ways in which landowners manage their property directly influences the diversity of wildlife and ecosystem health. More than 20 families are involved in Wild-Link so far.

Recently, Pat Hanlon, whose property intersects with an ecological corridor in Antrim County, met with CRA staff to prepare a habitat management plan for his property. Jeff Breuker, Wild-Link Project Manager, and Pat spent part of the day planting seedlings and installing tree protectors. In a few years these trees will provide wildlife cover, and in about 20 years will be producing acorns for wildlife food. This is a long-term investment into quality habitat and quality of life in northwest lower Michigan. It's great to see on the ground results!



*Pat Hanlon began his Wild-Link project this spring in Antrim County.*

## ***Banner Year for Conservation Projects***

CRA and our many partners proudly report a record number of on-the-ground projects accomplished during the past 12 months: A total of 47 conservation projects were completed in 12 different watersheds and 10 counties. These projects tangibly improved the health of important streams, such as the Pere Marquette, Pine, and Betsie Rivers, and improved habitat for native plants, fish, wildlife, and other animals. CRA's chairman, Dan Hubbell, says, "These projects are good for the land, good for water, good for plants and animals, and good for all of us humans who depend on healthy ecosystems." Hubbell reports that CRA spent \$1,022,000, and partners spent an additional \$700,000 to complete projects last year, including the repair of 22 severely eroding stream banks, improvement at 15 stream crossings, and 5 fish habitat structures. CRA estimates that erosion control work alone will eliminate 2,600 tons per year of excess sand from entering northern Michigan's sensitive waterways.



*This fish island structure was one of 47 conservation projects coordinated by CRA in the past twelve months.*



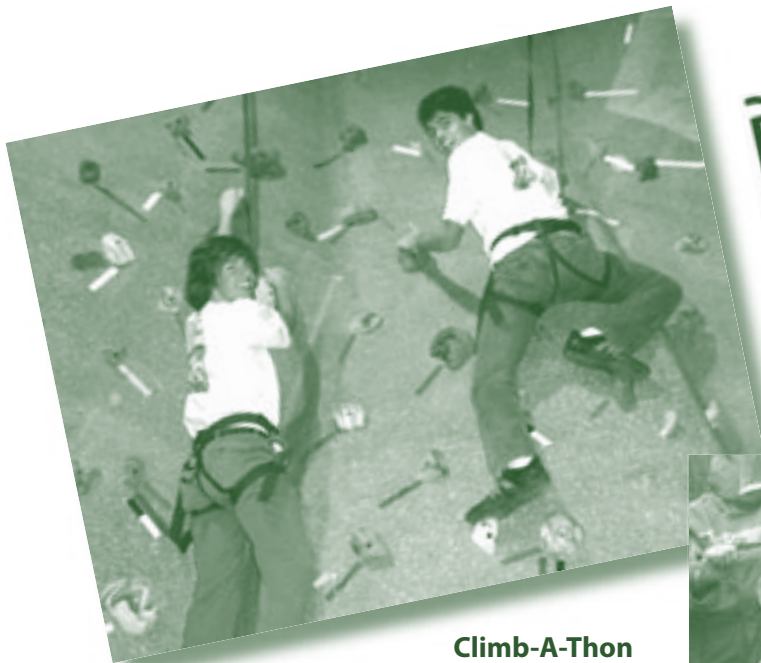
### Planting bee on the Manistee

On Friday, May 14, over 40 students from Pam Teimorzadeh's AP Biology class braved the rain and cold to help plant over 1500 seedlings on the Big Manistee River near Baxter Bridge. The students traveled north from Athens High School near Troy to be a part of the restoration efforts. Hats off to the students for their efforts, and many thanks to the teachers who helped make the day a success, despite the wet weather!



### Tippy Dam Clean-Up

The banks and trails at Tippy Dam on the Big Manistee River were once again filled with students and adult helpers from Wellston Elementary School to clean up after irresponsible users of this busy site. Everyone enjoyed the great feeling of making an improvement to the river and sharing a picnic lunch after the work was done!



### Climb-A-Thon

Over 70 young people participated in CRA's 3rd annual Climbing for Conservation Climb-A-Thon at GT Rock in Traverse City. Part of the River Care Kids program supported by the General Motors Foundation and other partners, this great event helps challenge kids to become future stewards for natural resources.



### Salmon in the Classroom

Once again Mark Wassa's Betsie Valley Elementary fifth grade class successfully completed a Salmon in the Classroom project and were able to celebrate by releasing their classroom raised fish into the Betsie River in May. CRA staff along with several watershed partners sponsored the release day fun activities.





## **Green River Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

River Care is all about partnership! Major funding from the DTE Energy Foundation helped CRA coordinate the replacement of the severely deteriorated Green River Bridge. The Antrim County Road Commission and other local partners contributed to the success of this project. Thank you to everyone involved with this effort to preserve the beautiful Jordan River watershed!



*Senator Jason Allen commended CRA and partners for the collaboration necessary to make the new Green River Bridge possible.*

## **Greens Fore Streams – Big Success!**

Congratulations to the two teams that tied to win CRA's first Greens Fore Streams golf event. Thank you to our title sponsor, Scientific Anglers-3M, our host, Crystal Mountain, and everyone that sponsored, donated, and participated in this great day of fun to benefit northern Michigan's natural resources!



*DTE Energy Team*



*Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth Team*

## **See River Care in Action!**

### **Special Events – Summer 2004**

#### **Big Sable River Float Trip**

**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Big Sable River

**What:** Join us for a canoe trip down the Big Sable River to look at future restoration sites. Please call for details and a reservation.

#### **College For Kids**

**Date:** Week of August 9-13, 2004

**Where:** Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, NMC in Traverse City

**What:** Spend an action-packed week learning about the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed with area water experts such as the Great Lakes Children's Museum, Inland Seas, CRA, land use planners, Boardman River Project, Benzie Conservation District and the Watershed Center-Grand Traverse Bay. This project has been made possible through a grant from Rotary Charities and the Water Studies Institute watershed partners.

#### **Betsie River Open House**

**Date:** Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Betsie Sportsman's Club in Thompsonville

**What:** Landowners and those interested in the Betsie River are invited to join us for a fun afternoon that includes presentations, informational booths, snacks and refreshments. This event is being sponsored by the Betsie River Watershed Restoration Committee. RSVPs are required. It will also be an opportunity to join CRA or renew your membership!

#### **River Care Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Friday, October 22, 2004

**Where:** A.G. Edwards office in Traverse City; call for reservations and a map

**What:** The public is welcome to join the River Care Advisory Committee at this meeting to discuss financial plans and project updates for the River Care Program.

**Visit [www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org) for Summer event additions and updates. Float trips, project site tours, and presentations may be arranged for interested groups.**

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

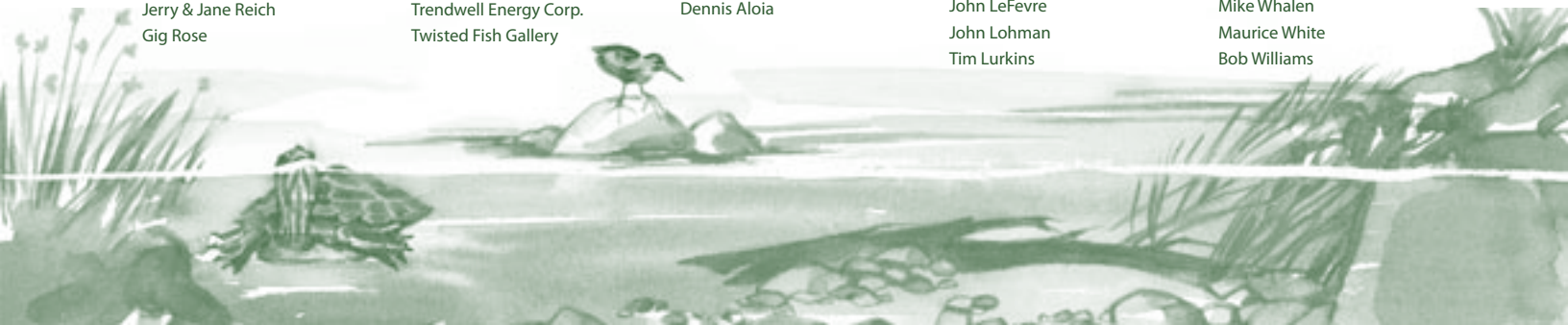
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## Make A Lasting Difference *By Pat Kelly, CRA Vice Chairman*

If, like I do, you spend every spare hour you can find on nearby trout streams, you might give some thought to how you can make sure your passion lives on, even after you're gone. I would encourage you to explore a charitable remainder trust with CRA for both short- and long-term advantages.

A charitable remainder trust is a tax-exempt trust from which you (and others you select) receive income. When the trust ends, the assets are transferred to CRA, where they will help ensure the professional care of rivers, lakes, forests and wildlife. Tremendous tax advantages are available in that you receive an income tax deduction when the trust is established. You also avoid capital gains tax and can create estate tax savings. When appreciated assets are sold by the trust, no capital gains taxes are incurred since the trust is

tax exempt. This can greatly increase the principal in the trust from which you then derive income.

This is a terrific vehicle to protect your assets from taxation and to establish long-term income for yourself from your assets. More importantly, it allows you to select where the money you leave will be utilized. Long-term care for our rivers could be a wonderful legacy to this commitment.

### 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership      Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

River Care Permanent Fund

My employer will match my gift (please send forms)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please send my FREE CRA T-Shirt in the following size:

- M     L     XL     XXL

I wish my support to be anonymous

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!**



### Welcome, Lydia!

On April 18, CRA Biologist Kim Balke and her husband Tom welcomed a baby girl into their family. Lydia Mae Balke weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 ¼ inches long. The Bal-

kes are very happy and healthy. Congratulations, Kim and Tom, on your beautiful baby girl!



### Welcome, Keith Charters!

CRA recently welcomed Mr. Keith Charters, of Traverse City to their Board of Directors. Keith is a retired businessman and chairman of the DNR's Natural Resource

Commission. A longtime conservationist, Keith brings outstanding leadership, administrative and financial management skills to CRA.

"We are very pleased to have Keith joining our Board. His passion for the outdoors and leadership abilities make him an excellent addition," said Sue Peters, chair of CRA's leadership committee.





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## Stewardship Spotlight

CRA has had the good fortune of working with one of the leaders in the world of fly fishing to help improve northern Michigan rivers. Scientific Anglers-3M has been a supporter of River Care for several years and signed on as the title sponsor for the first Greens Fore Streams golf event at Crystal Mountain in June. In addition to Bruce Richards playing a lead role in the design, development and refinement of all Scientific Anglers fly lines, he helped make the day extra fun with his fly casting contests and great prizes.

Scientific Anglers was founded in 1945 in Midland, MI by three gentlemen who were fishing buddies and unhappy with the fly lines then available. Over the next 7 years they developed and sold a variety of minor fly fishing products, while also working on a revolutionary new fly line. In 1952 they finally perfected a fly line they were happy with, and introduced the first modern, plastic coated fly line.

Since then, Scientific Anglers has grown into one of the biggest companies in the fly fishing industry. They make about 65% of all the world's fly lines in their factory in Midland, and also sell many other quality fly fishing products sold under the Scientific Anglers name. Preservation of fishing resources

is an important part of the company's goals; many conservation and fly fishing organizations are supported annually. CRA is proud to have Scientific Anglers-3M as a River Care partner. And a special thank you to Bruce Richards for all of his contributions!

## Help Support the Big Sable!

CRA and the Big Sable Watershed Restoration Committee are holding a raffle to raise funds to support continued restoration work on the Big Sable through CRA's Big Sable River Care Fund. The first prize is a hand carved 17" Big Sable Brown Trout (above) carved and donated by Chet Babcock. Additional prizes include a Lake Michigan charter fishing trip, guided float trip, golf outings and various other gift certificates. The raffle will be held on July 14, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mason County Fin and Feather Club. Need not be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Contact Laura at CRA at (231) 946-6817 or [cralaura@chartermi.net](mailto:cralaura@chartermi.net) to purchase tickets.

