



## What's in a partnership?

In a crowd, you'll normally hear CRA described as the group that can get big river or habitat projects done. Fisheries expertise. Construction planning strengths. Good fundraisers. But underneath it all, it's the partnership approach behind the River Care and Wild Link programs that will change the future for northern Michigan's natural resources.

Five attributes describe CRA's partnership approach and set CRA's River Care and Wild Link programs apart:

First, CRA has always believed that local people know the resource best. Our role in is to empower local people with technical expertise, financial and administrative assistance, and guidance through the bureaucratic processes, like permitting, environmental review, and contracting. Every project is based on a formal partnership that includes all elements of the community, user groups, and state and federal resource agencies.

Second, we emphasize careful priority setting based on objective, scientific facts and a total watershed or landscape approach that is pro-active instead of reactive. Recognizing that not all problems and resources are equal, and that money will always be limited, has helped CRA focus where real impact can be made (and say "no" to non-priority projects).

Third, we work carefully with partners to identify and achieve common goals. Bringing partners together that often don't see eye to eye is a tricky business. CRA makes the partnership process work by emphasizing common goals, and decision-making based on what is best for the resource, not what is best for any particular group. Over time, sometimes long periods of time, trust builds

among partners, the collective "IQ" is elevated, and the pace picks up for real accomplishment. At the dedication a few years ago for the long-awaited Forks Bridge on the Pere Marquette River, someone said, "Hey, look, on the plaque. All of those folks who pulled together to fund the \$185,275 bridge project are the same groups that signed the original Pere Marquette partnership, back in 1985, aren't they?"

Fourth, we advocate practical solutions that balance the needs of people and nature, a philosophy appreciated by corporate supporters, such as DTE Energy and General Motors, who work hand in hand with Indian Tribes, Trout Unlimited, sportsmen's clubs, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Finally, solutions are achieved and turf issues are avoided by employing each partner to do what they do best. This practice has allowed River Care and Wild Link to complete unprecedented amounts of "real work" without the formation of separate non-profit organizations. Community outreach is designed to emphasize tangible successes, and to share credit among all partners, private and public.

This, essentially, is the recipe for genuine partnership work, the CRA way. We're extremely proud to point to significant, tangible watershed improvements that benefit fish, wildlife, forests, and people, especially by fuelling the recreation-related economies in rural northern Michigan. But we may be even more proud of the new levels of ownership and responsibility that local partners are taking for managing these resources. This, we feel quite sure, will be the way of the future. *Continued on inside*



*The Forks Bridge project on the Pere Marquette River, completed in 2004, was a pointed example of a project too complex and too expensive for any one organization or agency to tackle. Twenty years after signing the Pere Marquette River Restoration Partnership Agreement, the same organizations worked together to complete the high-profile timber bridge.*

Partnership article continued

## Wild Link Partnership Works

The Partnership Agreement for Wild Link sets the stage for unprecedented levels of cooperation among groups who care about the way northern Michigan develops, and maybe better yet, means a landowner is guaranteed to have help from the right professional, whether he or she is interested in exploring income options from managing timber, a conservation easement, or enhancing habitat for game birds. In the 2007 field season, Little Traverse Conservancy arranged for one of their easement property owners to contribute cedar transplants for wildlife habitat enhancement on properties that CRA is working on; CRA in turn has referred several new landowners in key wildlife corridors to both LTC and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy for conservation easements; and the Grand Traverse Conservation District has provided forest management planning assistance for Wild Link property owners.

## Green River Partnership Brings Results

In 2005, CRA created a partnership agreement that very specifically called for a cooperative effort to remove the only major dam structure in the Jordan River watershed, a privately-owned structure at the trout farm on the Green River. Two years later, the ten groups signing the agreement, including the Michigan DNR, Michigan DEQ, Friends of the Jordan River watershed, CRA and others, are breaking ground to do just that. According to CRA's project manager Mark Johnson, the partnership agreement really represents an important process where all of the parties agree to work closely, in this case to reach consensus on design of the dam removal, agree on professional consultants and project costs, process the required permits (extensive for this complex project on Michigan's first designated Natural River), and make sure that adequate funds are raised for the project.



# Here's What's Happening...

## Anderson Creek Restoration

A Wexford County stream crossing is in much better shape this summer thanks to the Wexford County road commission and a grant



from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Number 6 Road crossing of Anderson Creek southeast of Buckley was recently updated to improve fish passage and reduce sediment delivery to the stream. Anderson

Creek is a cold water trout stream that flows into the Big Manistee River. Old, broken concrete culverts were replaced with a nine foot arch culvert and road approaches were altered to minimize road runoff entering the stream. The longer culvert allows flatter side slopes from the road shoulders, which also helps to filter road runoff from the site. Paving is planned for this fall as well to further protect the site from erosion. Matching contributions were made from CRA's River Care fund and the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The project is expected to be 100% completed by this fall.

## The Seeds of Conservation

Yucky old fishing line, lots of it, bottles, cans, wrappers, hooks, lures, cigarette butts, and even articles of clothing are just some of the items that filled garbage bags when over 90 youngsters from Wellston Elementary took to the banks and trails for the annual Tippy Dam access clean up. Part of CRA's River Kids program, supported by the General Motors Foundation and Consumers Energy, this event not only helps improve a busy site, it helps foster a respect for natural resources by the kids that might just translate to lifelong stewardship for special places like the Manistee River.

"Don't Litter" is an easy message for kids to understand, they are troubled at how many adults apparently don't get it. Picking up after careless grownups can be turned into a fun day when combined with cool new River Care Kids t-shirts and a hot dog picnic. This year Lorren Hannahs and Jim Bernier from Consumers Energy helped teach the group about the hydro-electric facility and even more entertaining, the story of over 20,000 bats using the habitat under the spillway for winter hibernation. Thanks to all of the hard working River Care Kids from Wellston, teacher Vivian Peck, and our sponsors for making a difference!

*Learning through experience, River Care Kids at Tippy Dam access help care for their watershed.*



## Bringing Back Bear Creek

Keeping momentum moving along in the Bear Creek Watershed, CRA and partners have helped stabilize another extremely large eroding streambank. Bear Creek is the largest tributary of the Manistee River below Tippy Dam and is known for excellent trout fishing and its large runs of Chinook salmon and steelhead. The site is approximately 250 lineal feet by 60 feet in height with the potential to deliver an estimated 385 tons of sediments/year. Stabilization efforts included fieldstone rip-rap with large woody debris incorporated along the toe of the stream bank and 4 rows of log terracing up the slope of the bank. To help efforts along, AP biology students from Athens High School in Troy, MI helped project partners with planting the slopes with native shrubs and trees. This project was successfully completed with partial funding support from the Great Lakes Commission and USDA and help from many other project partners and volunteers, including the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and Bear Creek Watershed Council.



Nearly 40 young people helped revegetate a repaired bank on Bear Creek to improve this vital stream.

## Carp River Timber Bridge Dedicated

In late June, a crowd of 30 gathered for the dedication of the new timber bridge at Oliver Road over the Carp River in Emmet County. The project received praise from the local community, legislators, State and federal agencies, and interest groups concerned about the river, and particularly the impacts of the undersized, dilapidated culverts. The bridge project required careful planning, due to the presence of the federally endangered Hungerford's beetle, which has been discovered in only a handful of streams, including the Carp and nearby Maple Rivers. Harold Chase, representing Senator Carl Levin's office, congratulated the group at the ribbon-cutting event.



Roberta Urbani from DTE Energy's Environmental Initiatives Department, cuts the ribbon, dedicating the new timber bridge over the Carp River in Emmet County.

## Wild Link Program Grows

The Wild Link program recently received support from two local charities for the continued expansion of wildlife planning services and on-the-ground projects in the region. Rotary Charities of Traverse City provided second year funding of \$20,000 for the expansion of Wild Link in the Grand Traverse Area. The Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation donated \$2500 to support the writing and implementation of wildlife management plans near their communities. Thanks to both charities for your support!

This past spring Wild Link staff and landowners planted almost 11,000 native tree and shrub seedlings. The primary goals of these plantings were to enhance habitat for game and songbird populations, provide sheltered travel corridors for wildlife, and to introduce native species. The seedlings were purchased from local conservation districts and were funded by a US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program Grant, personal contributions from the landowners and CRA.

## Twin Creek Fish Cover Project

Last fall, a cooperative project on Twin Creek, the largest tributary to the Little Manistee River, was begun to improve available fish cover on a primarily sandy section of the stream. Project work involved the installation of nearly 80 individual structures in the east and west branches of Twin Creek from their confluence upstream for several hundred feet. The purpose of the structures is two fold; they provide overhead cover for fish wildlife while narrowing the channel to force impounded sediments downstream and through the system. The project is a cooperative effort between CRA, the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council, and the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy. Total project costs exceeded \$20,000 and were evenly split between MWC and LMWCC. Follow-up site visits have revealed a deeper, narrower stream channel with more diverse habitat than previously existed. Structures consist primarily of logs cabled to wood posts and covered with natural materials. Juvenile steelhead produced in Twin Creek should have better habitat next summer after the spring spawning run!

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

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Jack VanHoef	Bahle's of Suttons Bay	Mike Donahue	John Makinen	Charlevoix County Community Foundation
Stephen Wilson	Bass Pro Shops	Lance Dunham	Aaron Mansfield	Frey Foundation
Bill Wobbekind	Beaver Island Boat Co.	Brian Dykstra	Tim Martin	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
<i>In memory of Matthew Bugbee</i> Spicer Group	Bel Lago	Jeanine Easterday	Tom Masters	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
<i>In memory of Richard Kook</i> Terry Thompson	Chrysler Financial	John Ellinger	Chazz McCall	Nestle-Ice Mountain
<i>Thank you for making the Greens Fore Streams Golf Outing a success!</i>	Crystal Mountain Resort	Eric & Diana Ellis	Ed McIntosh	Oleson Foundation
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		Ed Girschbach	Chad Miller	
		Mike Goggin	Kelly Miller	
		Sarah Gonzalez	Troy Molby	
		Fred Graham	Carl Morton	
		Joe Greenwald	Troy Naperala	



Jessica Cordes (above), Jeremiah Best, and Daniel Johnson had a blast with Captain Kevin Hughes as participants of the River Care Kids Alec Beyer Memorial Fishing Event aboard the Sandpiper III.



Greens Fore Streams winning team members, Gary Croskey, Stu Kogge, Shawn Middleton, and Karl Hauser, carded a nine under 63.

**Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle.**

– Author Unknown

## CRA Friends Hit the Links

CRA's Greens Fore Streams golf outing is becoming known as a blessed event. Once again the golf gods provided a perfect day for the record number of golfers to enjoy the beautiful Mountain Ridge Resort at Crystal Mountain. The fourth annual outing brought out 140 of CRA's best friends and partners to have some fun while raising important organization support. Bruce Richards, from title sponsor, 3M-Scientific Angler, offered tips and friendly competition to seasoned fishermen and first timers with his very popular fly casting contest. The post golf festivities were emceed by Bob Garner and helped bring the total raised from this event to over \$90,000 in four years!

Thank you to all of the generous Greens Fore Streams sponsors and everyone who donated prizes and participated in this successful event.

## Planned Giving – Fulfilling Your Conservation Goals

Leave a legacy by including the Conservation Resource Alliance in your will and estate plans.

Please remember CRA and the sensible conservation programs that continue care for our precious natural resources with a generous bequest in your will or trust. Your future gift will support critically important real work projects that restore, preserve, and protect some of Michigan's most beautiful places. Donating to CRA's Permanent Fund is a wonderful way to help us meet the challenges of keeping our rivers running free and healthy.

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

### Yes! I Want to Support CRA & Practical Conservation!

Enclosed is my CRA Membership contribution:

- Contributor \$30     Supporter \$50     Sponsor \$100  
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 Conservation Resource Alliance  
 10850 Traverse Highway, Suite 1111, Traverse City, MI 49684

**Thank You For Your Support!**



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## Stewardship Spotlight - Hawkins Outfitters



Very few folks know or respect our northern streams as well as professional fishing guides do. These river rats live on the water a couple hundred days a year and understand the challenges, pressure, and risks impacting some of the highest quality fisheries in the country. Most guides also try to give back to the resource to make sure opportunities to enjoy them are available for years to come.

Chuck Hawkins and the pros at Hawkins Outfitters are among the best. Their business philosophy of “Any River, Any Time”, best defines their style of guiding. Rather than set up base in a lodge or fly shop, the Hawkins team is mobile. Their four full-time and two part-time guides are permitted on all of the major rivers in the region to offer maximum angling diversity and opportunity for a truly memorable fishing experience. As Chuck says, “Our guys all love what we do and go the extra mile every trip.”

But it’s not just about the fishing. Hawkins is committed to doing more than donate a few trips for conservation fundraising. He knows that many of his clients care about the future of these streams and can help support the real work of improving them. Chuck has helped raise nearly \$5,000 recently for projects on the Upper Manistee by telling individuals and groups the important stories about stream restoration and asking for support. Now that’s going the extra mile for our rivers!

Hawkins Outfitters can be contacted at: PO Box 362, Traverse City, MI 49685-0362  
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Visit their website at: [www.hawkinsflyfishing.com](http://www.hawkinsflyfishing.com)