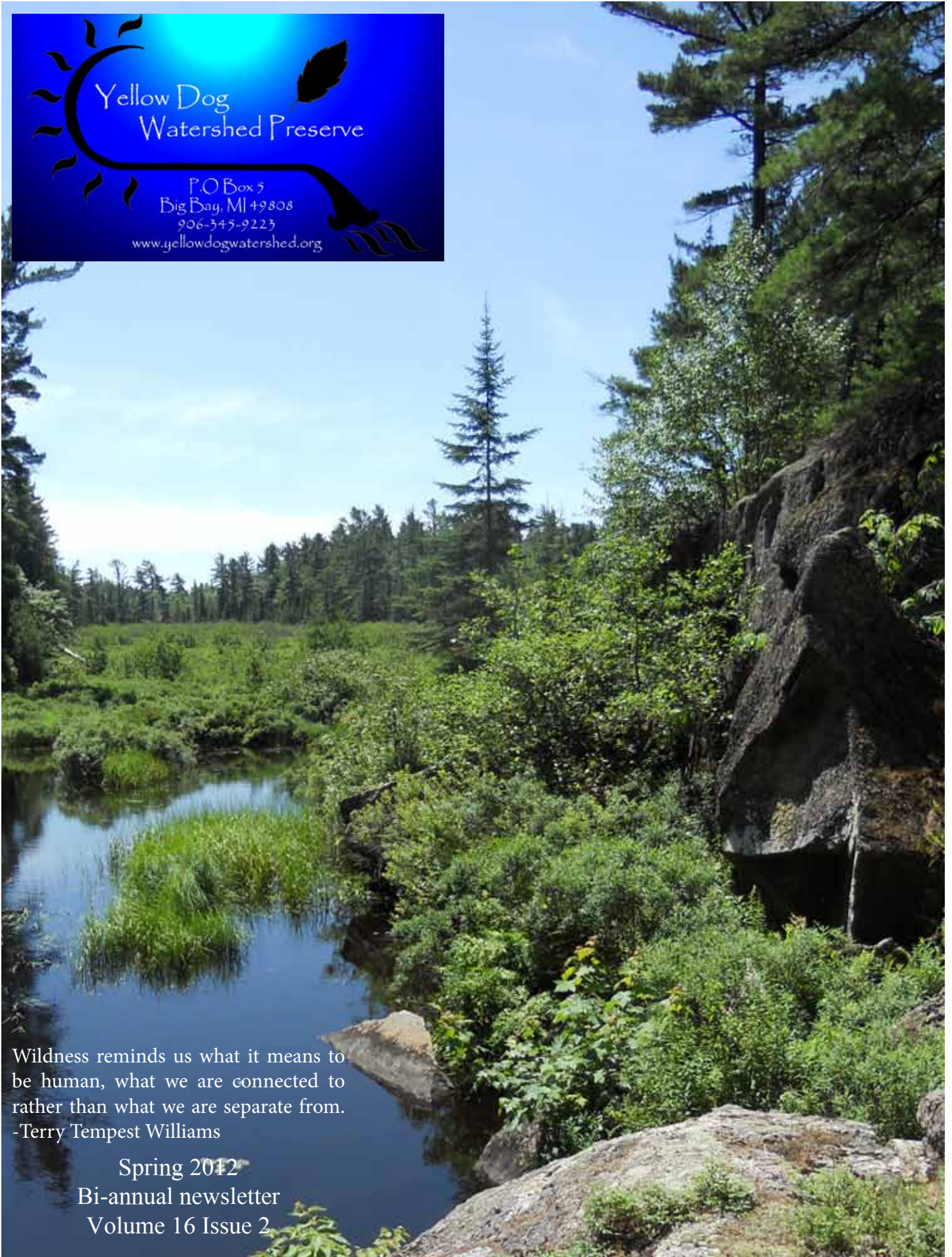




Wildness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.

-Terry Tempest Williams

Spring 2012
Bi-annual newsletter
Volume 16 Issue 2





From the Chairman of the Board

Spring has officially sprung in the watershed and nature is already busy creating the bounty that we all enjoy. The picture on our cover, which features the very beginnings of the Yellow Dog River in the McCormick Wilderness, inspires us to look toward the coming summer. We hope this newsletter finds all of our supporters and members well and hope you enjoy an update on the activities our group does. Be sure to read through our latest edition and learn more about how your donation dollars are put to work protecting this place we all know and love. We were again fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Western Mining Action Network and Indigenous Environmental Network in order to produce this publication so that we can provide high quality photos both from the air and ground that illustrate the condition of the watershed. We thank them immensely for giving us this opportunity. Also, we have a great fundraising opportunity described below that any supporter should take advantage of. Our group has the chance to turn your donations into an extra \$25,000 for our work. Imagine the possibilities! All of my fellow board members and I again thank you all for the committed support you have shown throughout the history of this organization and look forward to where we can go together as a community. Here's to the future.

Lorin Lardie

Online Fundraising 2012

A **huge opportunity** has come our way to really provide a solid foundation for our work to continue. Our group has been entered in an online fundraising competition which ends *May 15 at 11:59pm EST*. The overall goal is to raise as much money as we can up to the deadline. Whichever of the 30 groups competing has the highest amount raised by the deadline gets an amazing \$25,000 extra added to their raised amount. Second place gets \$15,000 and third gets \$10,000 respectively added to their amount. The rest of the groups simply keep the funds they raised.

Last year, YDWP was entered into a very similar fundraiser. The companies Moosejaw and Patagonia offered a single prize of \$5,000 to the group who raised the most money in two weeks. YDWP had some pretty tough competition but our supporters ended up donating the most. We raised \$12,000 and won the prize of an additional \$5,000, equaling a total pot of \$17,000! Our group used this money to purchase a 40 acre parcel that was adjacent to the McCormick Wilderness Area. This was a key parcel in maintaining public access to the wilderness area, in protecting uncut cedar forest, and in providing a buffer zone between federally protected land and private land.

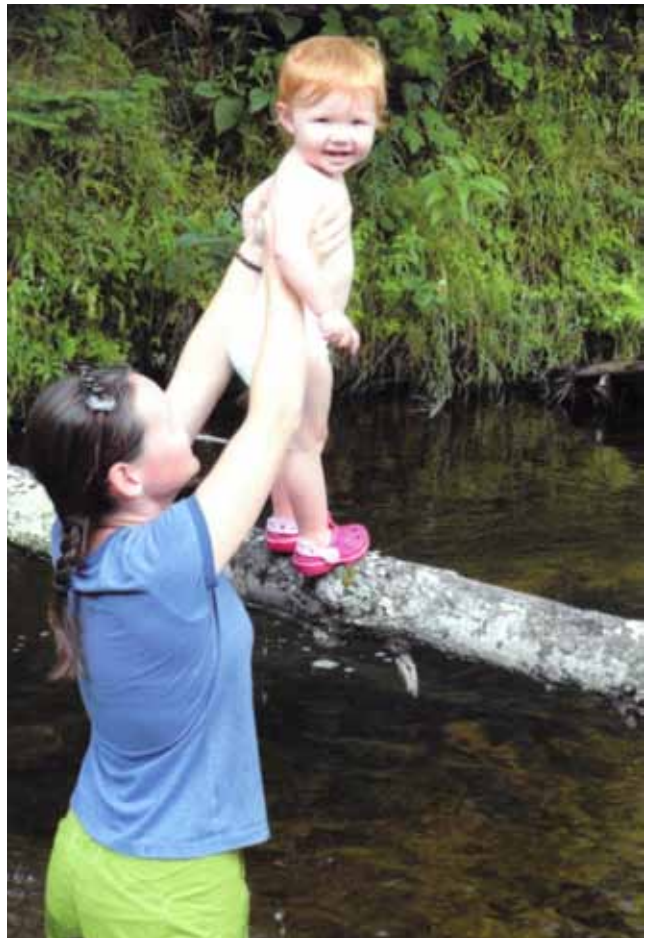
This year, the online competition, known as the Earth Day Challenge, is hosted by the internet company Groupon. YDWP gets 30 days to raise as much as possible to reach 1st place. We know that our supporters will once again help us to the top and keep our work going. Here is how you can help. Firstly, you can donate! Click on our fundraising page that is provided below and hit Donate. Secondly, you can start your own fundraising page that helps YDWP reach our goal by clicking Join the Team. Thirdly, please take time to send this link to your friends and family via email, Facebook, and Twitter. Help us reach a big audience! Wish us luck and help in any way you can!

<http://www.crowdrise.com/yellowdog2012>

Executive Director's Report

By Emily Whittaker

I smile every time I see this picture. The little red head girl is my niece, Nyla, and this picture is of her first visit to the Yellow Dog River. As you can see, she's pretty happy about it. And so was I. I was so glad to be able to show a child how beautiful and peaceful this river is and I hope she will return year after year and develop her own relationship with this place. Passing on our values is something we all know we need to do. But it is often forgotten that these small people will one day be our decision makers, business owners, politicians, and activists. Taking time to teach your community's younger generations about the true value of nature's quiet spaces is just as important as anything we can do. As summer quickly approaches, we want to encourage our members and supporters to bring your young ones to the river's edge, even just to sit for awhile and listen. The future of this area depends on it in fact. And we will do the same here in our capacity as an organization. Below I have outlined our latest education and outreach efforts to ensure that the kids that grow up here have a respect for what these resources can do for us. Hats off to Christy Budnick, our Education Coordinator, who has been busy working with local school students. She's done an important task for us.



Watershed Education and Outreach

Nickelodean Big Green Grant

Over the past year, YDWP has used the funds they were awarded by Nickelodean to assist Powell Township School in being a Michigan Green School. We went into the classroom and taught them about composting, making eco-friendly holiday decorations, and invasive plants. We also took them out of the classroom for a visit to the wastewater treatment plant, the nearby forest to tap sugar maples, and to the National Forest greenhouse to plant native seeds.

Northern Michigan University

Our group continues to work closely with university students as they are the next in line in becoming part of the working world. YDWP presented to one NMU class this spring about how grassroots campaigns and non-profit work is critical in environmental protection. Additionally, YDWP continues to offer a wide range of internships for the summer that NMU students often take up. Internships include teaching students about our water monitoring program, sulfide mining campaign, and any new directives that we have going on.

Upper Peninsula Environmental Council

YDWP was awarded a grant from UPEC for \$700 to work with local students and express to them how important monitoring your local waterway is. Most importantly, YDWP will talk to students about things that threaten the ecosystem such as sulfide mining. Our group has already spent a day on the river with Northstar Academy this spring showing students how to monitor the water conditions.. The grant will used to pay for chemical analysis of samples and equipment.

Battery Recycling

This summer will mark the one year anniversary of the upstart of our Battery Recycling Program. YDWP was a major part of the effort, seeking funding and designing the program with numerous community partners. The partnership continues today as we add more drop sites for batteries to be recycled. To date, the program has seen more than 6 tons of batteries diverted from the landfill and recycled. For more information on this program and a list of drop sites, visit www.yellowdogwatershed.org/blog/programs/battery-recycling/



Salmon Trout Headwaters in May 2011: Photo by Chauncey Moran

What you see here is a very obvious drainage. It is the beginnings of the East Branch of the Salmon-Trout River. The tributary begins directly north of Eagle Project as multiple springs convene to form the surface water. The springs are places where groundwater seeps from the hillside and expressed the water that has percolated from the nearby surface. The key component of Eagle Project is the TWIS or Treated Wastewater Infiltration System. This component is where the water that has come into contact with ore is allowed to filter back into the ground. All water from the mining project is supposed to go onto the TWIS and eventually percolate into the groundwater. From there, it will seep out on this hillside and come into the East Branch. This is why it is important to note that YDWP, along with Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, has been sampling in this area for years and will have a baseline dataset. This is likely to be the first place where any pollution would be detected.



Water Quality Protection Program

Water quality is still a cornerstone of our work here at YDWP. Water is the lifeblood of everything here, including you, and its health represents our future. Below we have described several components of our whole program and ways to get involved in it.

Year of Intensive Monitoring

YDWP continues to partner with Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission in the study of the East Branch of the Salmon-Trout River. The study examines Lake Superior tributaries that have planned or active mining activity and how the industry could affect the river ecosystem. Once sampling is completed, a report will be created and made available on YDWP's website.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring

This summer YDWP will monitor the Yellow Dog River for the 10th season through the MiCorps MDEQ program. Our volunteer monitoring program is one of the longest running programs of this type in the Upper Peninsula. This would not have happened if not for the incredible persistence of Chauncey Moran, our Yellow Dog Riverkeeper, and the many volunteers who have helped over the years.

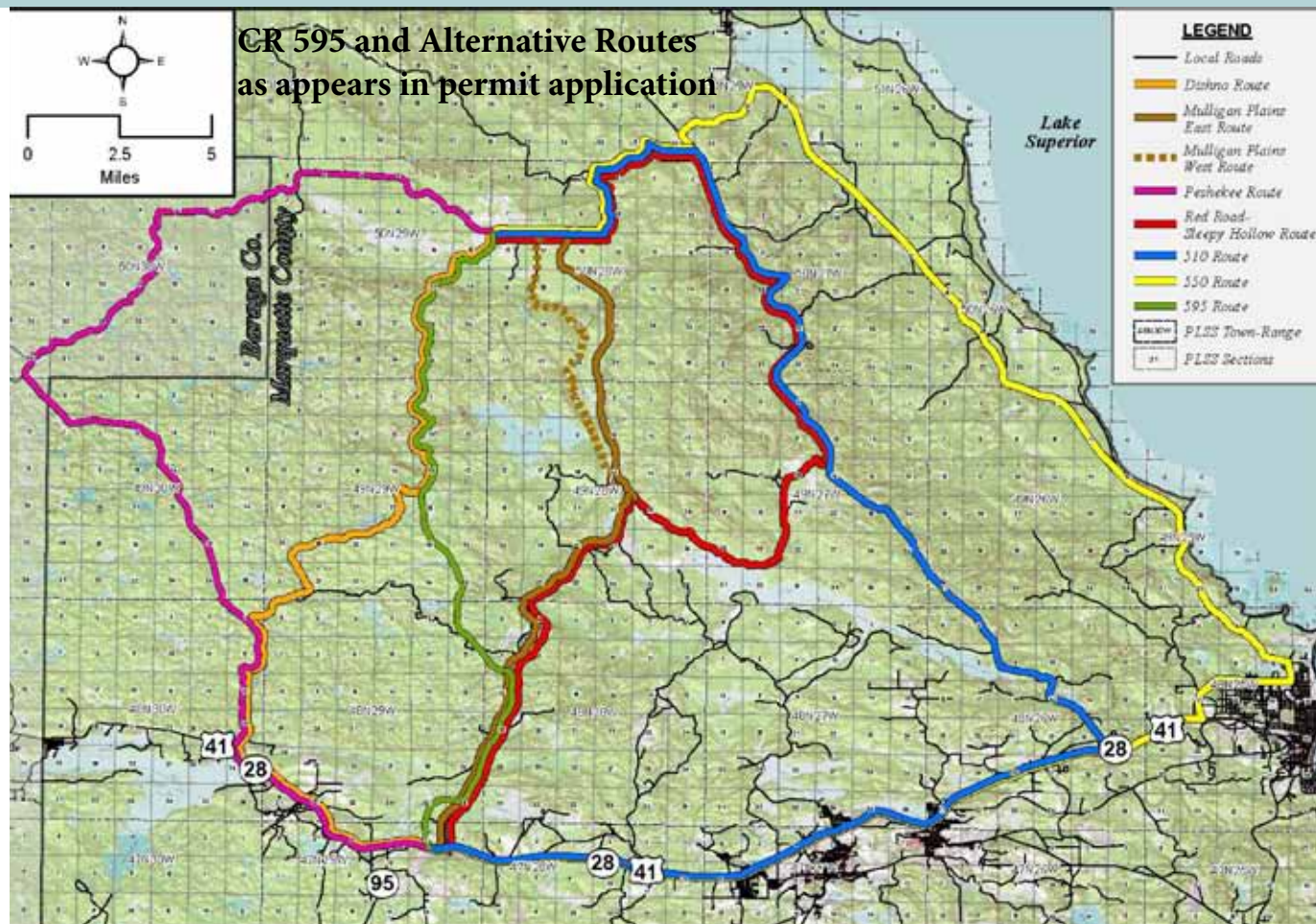
Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program

Lake Independence will continue to be monitored through this MDEQ program for the 3rd year. YDWP tests weekly with the help of volunteers for physical and biological parameters. To sign up to help, call 906-345-9223.

Water Quality Data

YDWP has spent over a decade collecting information about the condition of the water in both the Salmon-Trout and Yellow Dog River watersheds. That is a great deal of information. We put our data into a spreadsheet, then into a GIS database in order to build upon as future monitoring continues. We are at the point where Eagle Project is treating and discharging water back into the ground through the Treated Wastewater Infiltration System as of October 9, 2011. So the potential for detecting any impact from the mine increases by the day. As part of their permit requirements, Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company is mandated to furnish both groundwater and surface water results from their internal monitoring to the MDEQ. The results are in the form of an annual report, which is located at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3311_4111_18442-130551--,00.html. We will be comparing those results to our extensive body of baseline information to look for any uncharacteristic readings.

Update on Mining on the Yellow Dog Plains



County Road 595

The proposed road from Eagle Project to Humboldt Mill has again met with federal criticisms. Originally known as the Woodland Road, the now County Road 595 is undergoing permit review by both state and federal groups to deem whether it is the least harmful and most useful option. The project would fill in 25 acres of wetland and cross numerous streams. Proponents use increased recreation and safety as benefits. Opponents cite undue harm to wilderness as the main drawback. YDWP takes part by commenting on permit applications, talking with state/federal agencies about decisions, and photo/documenting the current condition of the area, which is pictured above. Federal agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the application and stated that if the true intent of the road is to serve Kennecott, then it should be stated so. Currently, the application states that it will be a public road that increases commercial access, safety, and recreation for all. To read more about this issue, visit our website at <http://www.yellowdogwatershed.org/blog/2012/04/16/federal-comments-on-cr-595/>

Citizens Attend Rio Tinto Annual Meeting

YDWP board members Cynthia Pryor and Carla Champagne traveled to London in early April to attend Rio Tinto's annual meeting. Both went to represent their community's concerns about air quality near Big Bay and surrounding towns. Currently, there is no air monitoring occurring at Eagle Mine partially due to the fact that there is no mandate in the law requiring it. However, KEMC officials did state during a public meeting that they would pursue installing air monitoring devices for Eagle. Pryor and Champagne called on that promise during the London meeting. Pryor states, "This 65 foot high stack sits within 150 feet of the Salmon Trout River. We worked hard to get the air filter included as part of Kennecott's original Air Quality permit as they intended the mine exhaust to be vented directly to the air. Now, they are back pedaling and want this air filter to be removed. We are vehemently opposed to such a notion and we wish to make this clear to the Rio Tinto Board." KEMC has applied for a permit amendment and it has been deemed administratively complete by the MDEQ. Public hearings will be scheduled in the near future.

Donors and Supporters

This list reflects all gifts as of 7/1/11 to 4/16/12

Thank You for Continuing Your Support!!

Mary McLaughlin	William Boydell	Tom and Lisa Lakenen
Sue Belanger and Susan Hardiman	Mark Halonen	Bob and Carolyn Myers
Patrick and Lynn deFreitas	Gary and Judy Larson	Rev. Barbara and Richard Boss
Jo Foley	Frank and Laura Farwell	Mike and Joyce Oatley
Marquette Unitarian Congregation	John and Patricia Case	Thomas and Ling-Yu Edgar
Sue Raker	Samuel and Diane Mahoney	Alec Lindsay and Kate Teeter
E. P. Hughes	Craig Sparks and Roberta Tisdale	Edie Farwell and Jay Mead
Ronald and John Bullock	S Burrell and Douglas McMillan	John and Brenda Dick
Anne and Pete Sheret	John, Courtney, and Rebecca Bercini	Craig and Phyllis Stien
George and Julie Lindquist	David and Beverly Stromquist	Chris and Pam Gale
John and Allyssa Anderson	Amy Lehman	Daniel Hales
Benjamin and Dorothy Mukkala	Terrence and Frances O'Neill	Edward Turner
Joanne Rohde	Nicole Lackey	Dan Rydholm/Kathleen Heideman
Daniel Raish	Jim and Paula Supanich	Mike and Anita Whittaker
Kelly and Lynn Laasko	Ursula Stock and Sean Murray	Thomas Steen
Clyde and Maggie Morgan	Michael Reed	Fran Whitman
Pat St. Germain/Maggie MacDevitt	Robert and Cynthia Pryor	Paul and Zhuang-Zhong Lehmborg
Lydia Hoff and Isabel Francis	John Erdmann and Kristen Karls	Kathryn and David Coffey
Jon Yanover	Susan Long	Eeva and Bob Miller
Bill and Marilyn Durand	Polly Moore	
John and Karin Mattis	Sara J Drury	Memorials and Gifts
Kenneth and Maura Davenport	Mary Jo Schweinsberg Picard	Larry and Helen Hillberg
Karen and Robert Schmitt	Marjorie N Smith	for Leslie A. Hillberg
Tom Chapman	Allan Olson	In Memory of Robert Schreiber
Polly Tackett	Joel and Patti Trick	and William Manierre
John Lyons	John and Tory Parlin	Mrs. Cameron Farwell
Albert and Elizabeth Pyott	Angela Pohl	In Memory of Gabrielle Zender
Susie, Ned, Seth Houston	Paul Marin and Betsy Little	Ben Kent
Don and Mary Snitgen	Donald and Anita Beltrame	Chris and Amber Lawler
Col. William & Elizabeth Gray	Tim and Ann Rutkoske	Joseph and Leslie Patrick
Gerald Mohlman	Clarence and Barbara Stielstra	Carol Rees
Richard Sloat	Rolf and Carolyn Peterson	Tim and Sheila Leahy
Jose Sanchez	Les and Ann Rogers	John and Victoria Jungwirth
Reg and Lyn Durant	Emery Gyr	Mark and Laurie Tallio
Katherine Regier	William Joswiak	Ron and Mary MacNab
Warren and Susan Hingst	Doug Loman	2012 Online Auction Donors
Richard Bell	Raymond Wab	John Jungwirth Patagonia
Howard Holmes	John Gibrke	Margaret Comfort Osprey Packs
John J Carver	Collen O'Hara	Big Bay Outfitters Mike LaTulip
Raymond B Pittman	David Symes	Ray Weglarz Beth Milner
Keith and Vada Kepler	Celeste Wiitanen	Jerry Mohlman Doug Loman
John M Rogers	Mark Stevens	Melissa Middleton Dark Horse Brew
Jeffery Loman	Peter Zenti	Blissfest Farms Thortons Rafting
Don Finwall	Dan LaBar	Kinetic Koffee North Country
Ross Broughton	Mike Brown	Birchleaf Designs Publishing
Paul Schumacher	Beth Campbell	Happy Dog Salon MI Brewer Guild
Elizabeth Blichtfeldt	Jay and Monica Scriba	

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve
P.O. Box 5
Big Bay, MI 49808
(906)345-9223
www.yellowdogwatershed.org

Board of Directors

Lorin Lardie, Chairman
Chauncey Moran, Vice Chair
George Girod, Treasurer
Cynthia Pryor, Secretary
Jan Zender, Director
Bill Kinjorksi, Director
Ben Kent, Director
Marcia Gonstead, Director
Carla Champagne, Director

Staff

Emily Whittaker, Executive Director
Wendy Johnson, Preserve Coordinator
Christy Budnick, Education Coordinator

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

Earth Day Challenge

April 10 through May 15
Help YDWP win \$25,000 with your donation. See page 2 for details.
<http://www.crowdrise.com/yellowdog2012>

Kirtland's Warbler Survey on the Yellow Dog Plains

June 6 through June 16
Whether you are an expert or novice birder, we would love to have you! Call our office at 906-345-9223 for more information.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring-Yellow Dog River

June 15 through July 15
Come spend a day doing citizen science with YDWP. Call our office at 906-345-9223 to sign up.

17th Annual Meeting

August 4, 2012
Join us for our annual meeting of members and supporters. This year it will be held at our new property next to the McCormick Wilderness Area.
Board Meeting and Election- 2:30pm
Hike to West Branch Yellow Dog Falls- 4:00pm
Potluck, Jam Session, Campfire- 6:00pm



Photo by Chauncey Moran. Potentially affected waterway by County Road 595 project. Road proposed through many wetland areas where crossings are hard to maintain.