

**ANOTHER
120 ACRES
PRESERVED!**
See page 7.



**PFAS SAMPLING
IN THE WATERSHED.**

See page 4.

THE

HOWL

Spring/Summer 2022

www.yellowdogwatershed.org

Bi-annual Newsletter
Volume 26, Issue 1

Preserving the Yellow Dog Watershed in its most natural state for the use of the public, now, and for the benefit of future generations.

FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING: A REPORT ON THE YELLOW DOG RIVER COMMUNITY FOREST

By Rochelle Dale, Administrator

The YDR Community Forest celebrated its fifth anniversary last fall. YDWP purchased 648 acres from JM Longyear in 2016 after 3 long years of fundraising and grant writing. The largest portion of funds came from a \$400,000 federal grant from the US Forest Service's Community Forest and Open Spaces Program. Private foundations, anonymous donors, hundreds of individuals, and local organizations contributed the remaining \$700,000 needed for the purchase, while Max and Mary Putters donated their adjacent 20 acres to the project, bringing the total acres of the Community Forest to 688.

An amazing amount of work and dedication went into reaching the monetary goals for the purchase, and then came the next round. YDWP immediately created a Community Forest management plan with projected goals and timelines and then set about making these plans come to fruition. Here are some of the major accomplishments of the last five years:

- A Community Forest Advisory Committee has been created and maintained to represent the community at large.
- An informational kiosk has been constructed at the trail head.
- Volunteer stream monitoring is being conducted at 2 sites within the Community Forest.
- A volunteer land stewardship program has been implemented.
- Invasive species are being monitored, and a boot brush has been installed at the kiosk to help reduce their spread.
- Erosion problems have been addressed: the trail has been relocated away from dangerous banks.
- 2 foot bridges have been constructed, and excess debris has been removed from feeder streams, restoring flow to the river.
- A BioBlitz was conducted to gain important information about the lives the forest supports.



Now, we embark on the next five years. Where do we go from here? Except for constructing foot bridges and kiosks, the remaining points of the above list will be continued. The Advisory Committee met on site on May 24, 2022, reviewing past plans and discussing the future. In addition to ongoing monitoring, we will conduct our second BioBlitz in June 2023, reconnect with NMU biology students to evaluate the vegetative plots established in 2019, install trail counters to determine how many visitors the Community Forest actually receives, address erosion problems at a locally popular spot on the river while maintaining access for persons with disabilities, continue with trail maintenance, and create a loop trail back to parking area to reduce traffic and impact on the main trail.

There is no shortage of work, and we can always use extra hands and feet. If you are interested in helping out with Community Forest projects contact Rochelle@yellowdogwatershed.org. If you haven't visited the Community Forest in a while, come check it out. See you on the river!



Advisory committee at Hill's Falls in the Community Forest. Photo by Rochelle Dale.



521 W. Washington St. Marquette, MI 49855
906.226.3540

Each year, Beth Millner Jewelry partners with non-profit organizations located in the Upper Peninsula for their Fundraiser Pendant Program. We are pleased to announce that YDWP has been selected as a partner this year. Beth will design a custom pendant for our organization, which will be sold online, as well as at her shop in downtown Marquette. At least \$50 from every pendant sold will be donated to YDWP, and shoppers can choose to donate even more with their purchase. To date, Beth Millner Jewelry has been able to raise over \$50,000 for a variety of local non-profits. The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve was chosen out of a pool of applicants this year specifically because of our commitment to preserving and protecting such an important source of water and stretch of forest here in the Upper Peninsula. You can follow Beth Millner Jewelry on social media for updates on the upcoming collaboration, which is expected to launch in November.

Front page: "Howling Wolf,"
drawing by Nancy Moran.



*This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled
paper that is Green Seal Certified.
Please reuse it by sharing it with friends, and
remember to recycle!*

RHYTHM WELLNESS RETREATS



Wilderness Wellness Retreats & Workshops

*Retreats on the
Yellow Dog for mind-
body wellness,
exploration, and
healing.*

www.rhythmwellnessnetwork.com
CONTACT KALIL & DILAINE AT
RHYTHMWELLNESSNETWORK@GMAIL.COM



*"What you doin' in there? Spring is finally here!"
Photo by Sarah Heuer; taken from inside the Yellow Dog office.*

'Say It' in *The Howl*

The Yellow Dog *Howl* is published biannually by The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve for its members and friends. We welcome your thoughts on environmental issues, stories of the history and legacy of the watershed, or anything you feel is related to our mission. Creative expressions are welcome too: art, poetry, photos, lyrics, etc.

Any comments, suggestions, articles, or artistic statements can be shared with Sarah Heuer at:

The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve
PO Box 5, Big Bay, MI 49808.
Phone: (906)345-9223
Email: sarah@yellowdogwatershed.org

Directors & Officers

Chauncey Moran, *Chairman of the Board*
Jan Zender, *Vice Chairman*
Kristi Mills, *Secretary*
Lynn Roovers, *Treasurer*
John Anderson, *Director*
Jay Johnson, *Director*
Jacklyn Lenten, *Director*
Dan Rydholm, *Director*
Roy Sarosik, *Director*

Staff

Rochelle Dale, *Administrator*
Sarah Heuer, *Programs Coordinator*
Brian Noell, *Administrative Assistant*

FROM THE CHAIR: INSIGHT FROM ABOVE

By Chauncey Moran, Chairman of the Board



Downed trees in YDWP Community Forest. Aerial photo by Chauncey Moran.

over our properties and water-monitoring sites as well as areas of potential erosion from human activity, newly downed trees in the River, or bank failures. We also assess water levels in ponds, creeks, and springs, as these are significant sources of recharge to the Yellow Dog River.

This year, with heavy snowfall, rain events, and super-saturated soils, water levels were higher than they had been in decades. This was revealed by collapsing banks, toppled trees from exposed root balls at water's edge, and sand deposition higher than recorded since 1994. In the past, even in record snow years with rapid melting and heavy runoff, the water levels in many Northern Marquette County streams had not reached this year's high-water mark.

Regular kayakers, among them Mike Croak, will attest to the difficulty and duration of this year's spring adventures on the raging torrents. Conditions extended the "kayaking the falls" season, as repeated heavy precipitation amplified snow-melt runoff still in the watershed systems.

For this year's overflight, the forecast had been 10-knot winds, which turned out to be more like 15-20: not for everybody. Efforts to "circle 'til you get it" were challenging; however we have the best available pilot from Keweenaw Aviation, Mike Roth, and our efforts to get photos of areas of concern paid off. We flew 2.7 hours and covered a few hundred miles. We were able to document all our targets, taking several hundred usable photos. Overhead shots are exciting to capture, however oblique angle photos incorporate the surrounding landscape, revealing a more complete story of conditions. We even flew over the Yellow Dog Office (more than twice), where staff were so intense at their duties that they did not come out to greet us as we passed overhead.

If anyone has an inclination to support these flights, which are crucial to YDWP's mission, please contact Rochelle Dale at the Yellow Dog Office.

Blessings to all our supporters and those yet to embrace the wilds of the Yellow Dog River. In spite of all the negative vibes in the world, the River continues to flow, providing opportunities to hike, fish, swim, or record your historic adventure in photos. You may desire to sit quietly on the bank some evening or early morning and allow the dancing water droplets to lull you into a reverie, just absorbing the sights and sounds of the River speaking to your heart spirit, perhaps even calming your emotional state to appreciation of place. Then you may acknowledge how you came to be there just at that moment. Perhaps this was the first time you ever experienced such an awareness, the sense enduring for minutes instead of seconds. That's the essence of adventure- however, only if you open your heart.

Hope to see you out there! I am the guy with tall rubber boots, camera, and maybe chainsaw, helping to keep the trail safe, while allowing the land still to remain wild.

Often times we are "ground proofing" on the River or at its headwater springs, that is, recording with photography the results of spring runoff or significant wind, rain, or fire events. Sometimes, like this year and every year we are able, we make flights



Bentley Lake (top), old Christ Anderson homestead location (lower left of wetland), and Anderson Corners (lower left). Aerial photo by Chauncey Moran.

YDWP TO PARTICIPATE IN WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE'S NATIONAL PFAS SAMPLING PROJECT

By Brian Noell, Administrative Assistant



In 2022 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which has had a dramatic impact on the health of our nation's waterways. Signaling a continued commitment to clean water, the Biden administration EPA has made the protection of the public and the environment from PFAS compounds a major priority. Concern over PFAS has increased in recent years as citizens become aware of the ubiquity and persistence of these chemicals as well as increasing evidence of their negative effects on human health.

A large group of man-made chemicals employed in consumer products and industrial processes, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been in use since the 1940s. They are resistant to heat, oils, stains, grease, and water, properties which contribute to their staying power in the environment and have earned them the dubious nickname "forever chemicals". Virtually all

of us have been exposed to PFAS to one degree or another. They are found in electronics, fabrics, food packaging, fire and water retardants, non-stick cookware, paints, stains, shampoo, and cosmetics, as well as in foods, such as fish caught in contaminated water or dairy products from cattle exposed to PFAS compounds. Impacts on human health are still being studied, but PFAS have been linked to infertility in women, developmental effects or delays in children, hormone imbalances, decreased immune function, and cancer.

The EPA initiative has three components. In addition to addressing PFAS pollution at the source through enhanced monitoring, education, and permitting guidelines for states, EPA is also developing new water quality criteria for PFAS to protect aquatic life. Finally, it has published a method to screen for the presence of PFAS in water, an essential tool for understanding which PFAS are in the environment and how much are present.

Just as EPA enhances its push to combat pollution from these chemicals, YDWP is participating in a national initiative spearheaded by Waterkeeper Alliance to conduct surface water sampling for PFAS contamination. Using test kits developed by the environmental engineering company Cyclopure, we will measure upstream and downstream of potential PFAS pollution sources on both the Yellow Dog and Salmon Trout Rivers. In addition to assessing the extent of PFAS contamination in our watersheds, we will be helping to establish a national baseline of data by which we may continue to monitor and then advocate for enhanced protections when necessary.

PFAS pollution has emerged as one of the most challenging and urgent environmental problems of our time. It is encouraging, therefore, that both government and environmental groups are on the same page about the importance of immediate action. Informing ourselves about the scale of the threat is our first step toward confronting it.

DEER CREEK ROAD STREAM CROSSING PROJECT UNDERWAY

By Rochelle Dale

Spring came a little late to the U.P. this year, with isolated snow patches hanging on well into the beginning weeks of May, but now that we are walking on the ground again, field work on the Deer Creek road stream crossing is beginning. Representatives from GEI consultants; Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE); the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited; JM Longyear; and YDWP gathered on site on May 19th to discuss project details, identify specific monitoring sites, and determine permanent control points. The work to restore the impaired crossing will continue throughout the summer and fall of 2022 with data collection, an engineering design, and more. Completion is expected by fall 2023.

This crossing was identified nearly 8 years ago in our Watershed Management Plan as a priority site for non-point source pollution and aquatic organism passage. The project is funded by an EGLE non-point source pollution grant with contributions from JM Longyear, the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Partners for Watershed Restoration, Superior Watershed Partnership, and YDWP.



*Left to right: Olivia Englehart, Tim Schneider, Rochelle Dale, John Highlen, Sam Prentice, and Mitch Koetje.
Photo by Jan Zender.*

MICORPS GRANT AND UPDATES

By Sarah Heuer, Programs Coordinator



Empty and abandoned stonefly larval shells. Photo by Sarah Heuer.

With the revised QAPP as of March 2022, all of our Yellow Dog monitoring sites are now included and monitoring data (macroinvertebrate and habitat assessments) will be documented in the MDE. Additional staff hours for data entry and field work will account for the remaining grant money.

MiCorps has established a few new procedures for the VSMP this year. Greater efforts are now in place for decontamination between sampling sites in order to reduce and/or eliminate transfer of aquatic and terrestrial invasives. In addition, there is a new methodology for scoring stream health. Through careful identification and counting, we are now using a system based on the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index, established by Dr. William Hilsenhoff, an entomology professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This index assigns sensitivity ratings to most macroinvertebrate species, genera, and families. Using this system, a weighted average can be calculated to generate the pollution tolerance score (or water quality rating) for aquatic insects.

This spring we are noticing significant changes in scores on streams that previously received lower scores because of an apparent lack of diversity but which now score higher because of an abundance of sensitive species. This new methodology has given me greater confidence that our water quality ratings are more representative of actual stream conditions.

This \$2,000 will be consumed quickly with inflation increasing the cost of goods of all sorts, but I am grateful for the subvention and to have gone through the grant process. By staying up to date with our VSMP QAPPs every two years (to allow for future funding), following MiCorps protocols, and taking care of new gear, we will carry out our operations a bit more diligently, while staying warm, dry, and clear-headed even when the elements around us are unpredictable.

YDWP is excited to announce that we recently received a maintenance grant in the amount of \$2,000 through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) for our Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. MiCorps was established in 2004 to assist the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE), formerly Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in collecting water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs.

This year a total of \$75,000 was allocated across three grant types for volunteer benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring and habitat assessment. These included startup grants, implementation grants and maintenance grants. Since YDWP has been an active participant in the VSMP program since 2013, we applied for a maintenance grant to upgrade and renew old equipment.

For a number of years I have been patching old waders and keeping my fingers crossed that the next greenhorn that slid into frigid waters would stay dry. In addition, the waders I have been using are too thin for the cold of the late-fall monitoring season. Some new breathable stocking foot waders from Patagonia will be purchased for volunteers, and we also will buy a good pair of insulated neoprene waders for myself. Other equipment will include rubber-soled wading boots, hip boots, macroinvertebrate sampling supplies such as tweezers and pipettes, sampling jars, replacement aquatic d-nets, alcohol for bug euthanization and embalming, and pocket magnifiers.

In order to receive this grant, we were required to update and revise our Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Our startup grant for the VSMP back in 2013 required us to create an initial QAPP, allowing us to share monitoring data in the MiCorps Data Exchange (MDE) for our Salmon Trout River sites. This was crucial due to activity at the newly developed Eagle Mine on the Yellow Dog Plains near the headwaters of the Salmon Trout. However, until now, data from monitoring sites from the Yellow Dog have not gone into the exchange.



A volunteer calculates a water quality rating based on macroinvertebrate collection. Photo by Sarah Heuer.

SUMMER 2022 ON THE YELLOW DOG RIVER



Mark your calendars for the events scheduled this summer!
Additional information regarding each event will be sent via email and promoted on social media.
Stay tuned for further details or email us with questions.

June 19-25th:

Marquette Art Week -

YDWP is a proud sponsor of one of the five water themed poetry posters that will be displayed along Marquette's lakeshore trail.

July 30 - 31st:

Outback Art Show at Picnic Rocks in Marquette -

YDWP will have an information booth featuring local artists.

Booth hours; Saturday 10am - 6pm & Sunday 10am - 5pm
(see page 12).

August 27-28th:

Fly fishing workshop in partnership with the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited at Deer Creek (see page 14).

August 29th:

Northern Michigan University Fall Fest - YDWP will have an information booth.

September 10th:

Plein Air Art Festival at the Yellow Dog Community Forest from 9am - 4pm (see page 12).

September 17th:

Big Bay Fall Fest - YDWP will have an information booth.

October *Date to be announced*:

YDWP Annual Meeting.

**THE MIDWIFE'S CABIN
VACATION RENTAL**

COZY, REMOTE, BACKCOUNTRY RETREAT, SLEEPS 4 (+2)

PRIME LOCATION FOR HIKING, BIKING, SKIING, CANOING
NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL, DEAD RIVER, SILVER LAKE AND DEAD RIVER BASINS NEARBY

906-362-8717

**ISHPEMING
BIRCHBARK CANOES**

NEW CONSTRUCTION • RESTORATION
PADDLES • 1/2 AND 1/4 MODELS
BOX 518 • ISHPEMING • MI 49849
906 362 8717
WWW.BIRCHBARK-CANOES.COM

WILSON CREEK WOODSMITHING

Carpentry
Finish Work
Hardwood Flooring
Tongue & Groove
Wood Siding

Timber Framing
• Small Cabin • Barn
• Woodshed
• Design Work

Tree Service & Sawmill
Lot Clearing
Portable Sawmilling
Low-Impact Forestry Projects
Lumber & Timbers
Trails & Landscaping

Custom Woodworking
Furniture
Tables & Benches
Bookshelves
Commission Work
Shop Services
Wall Art

Site Prep
• Stumping • Clearing
• Road/Driveway • Excavating

Justin Savu
5860 CR 550
Marquette, MI 49855
906-360-7288
thujasavu@hotmail.com

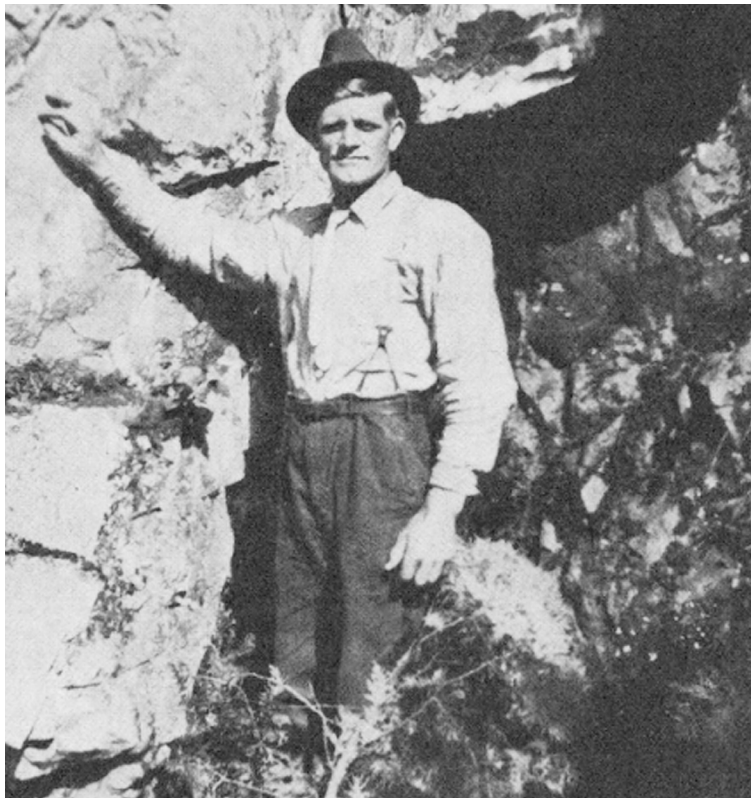
www.justinsavu.com
www.facebook.com/WilsonCreekWoodsmithing

NEW LANDS FALL UNDER YDWP PROTECTION

By Rochelle Dale

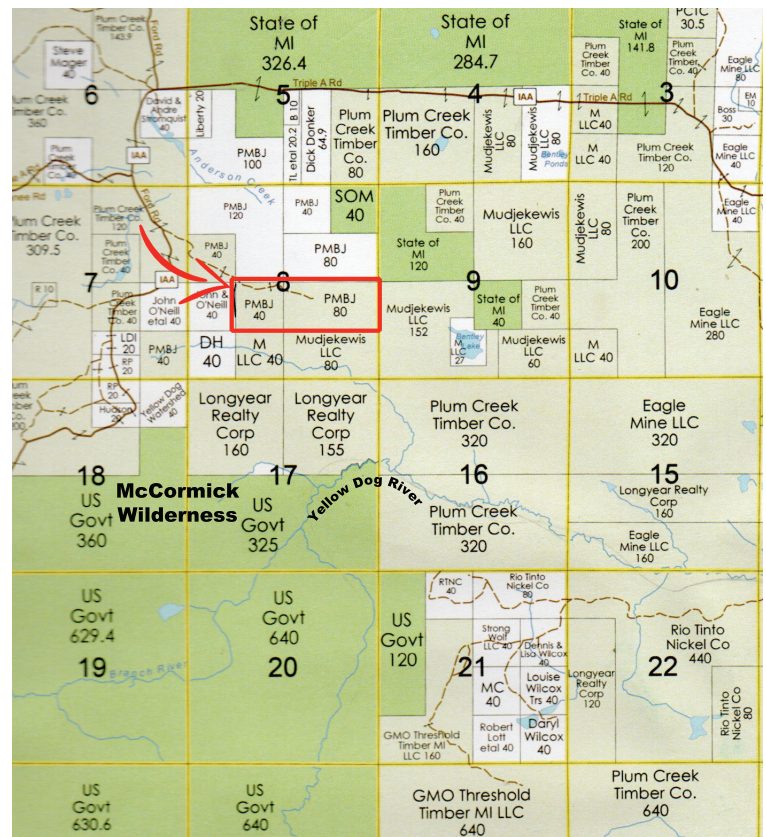
The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve has just added another 120 acres to the land it protects within the watershed. The new acreage is a highly sensitive area consisting of wetlands and glacial outwash terrain in the Andersen Creek Headwaters in Marquette County, Michigan Township. It is only one mile north of the McCormick Wilderness Area and is contiguous with the Mudjekewis Wildlife Refuge. This high quality wetland directly feeds the upper portions of the Yellow Dog River, and as climate change continues and increases, protection of these fragile wetlands is vital not only for their own value but also to ensure the high quality water and cold water recharge for the Yellow Dog River.

The wetland is part of the Andersen Creek headwater system, and is near the still-visible remains of the Christ Andersen homestead, where the modern history of the Yellow Dog Plains actually begins. Nels and Johanna Andersen were the first to homestead on the plains in 1901. Twenty year-old Christ, who immigrated from Denmark to join his parents in 1906, became one of the early guides for Cyrus McCormick and Cyrus Bentley and was instrumental in finding the way for and creating the historic Bentley Trail. He also worked as a builder for the Huron Mountain Club. Later in his life, he befriended a young man passionate about history and the backwoods, C. Fred Rydholm, author of *Superior Heartland*. Christ became a mentor to Fred. This new acquisition will be named the Christ Andersen Headwaters Preserve in Andersen's honor.



Christ Andersen. Photo courtesy of Mudjekewis LLC.

The addition of the new Christ Andersen Headwaters Preserve became a real possibility when the Rydholm family offered to sell the land to YDWP at a conservation sale price, well below the market value. The purchase was made possible by generous private contributions, and a \$10,000 grant from the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition will allow us to remove the land from commercial forest designation. Funds are still needed, however, to complete trail work and informational signage. If you would like to contribute to the project, simply indicate Christ Andersen Headwaters Preserve when making your donation.



Remnants or offshoots of the historic Bentley Trail traversed this new tract. YDWP will work to identify those trails wherever possible and reconnect them with the main trail that runs through Mudjekewis and the halfway point of the 30-mile trek from the McCormick Wilderness Area to the Huron Mountain Club. We will also create a hiking trail loop and campsite on the Christ Andersen Headwaters Preserve, open to the public so that students and nature enthusiasts will be able to observe, study, and learn from this rare ecosystem without negatively impacting the wilderness they want to protect. At the same time, they will touch their feet to a little part of Yellow Dog history.

In general, Michigan wetlands are declining in quality and are increasingly impacted by invasive species; by contrast, the wetland ecosystems in this area have experienced only limited historic disturbance. In initial surveys completed in 2020, no non-native wetland plants were found. This alone is extremely rare these days. In addition, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, areas with Floristic Quality Indices higher than 35 are exceptional. Initial assessments of the Christ Andersen Headwaters Preserve shows the floristic quality indices to be between 35.5 and 42.7, which would be considered "Natural Area" quality in Michigan.

Luxury Vacation Rentals

Tranquility Haven

On the beautiful shores of Lake Superior

Paul Pfaffle
262-424-1793

YDWP 2023 CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST: THE FOUR SEASONS



Wild columbine in the Huron Mountain Club this spring. Photo by Kathy Binoniemi.

We're looking to kick off 2023 with a beautiful calendar, highlighting the most magnificent features of the Yellow Dog Watershed. To accomplish such a feat, we're asking for your help and to share with us some of your favorite seasonal photos. By submitting photos of your excursions in the Yellow Dog Watershed, you'll have a chance to be featured in our 2023 calendar!

Here are the rules:

- This contest is open to everyone, regardless of experience with photography.
- Photos must be taken within the Yellow Dog Watershed- note the date, time, and location of the photo.
- Submitting a photo means you consent to YDWP using it in our 2023 calendar and sharing it on social media.
- Photos will be chosen for our calendar by a panel of local independent photographers, and winners will receive a complimentary membership and a free copy of the 2023 calendar.

Participants may submit one photo per season, so four photos total, depicting winter, spring, summer, and fall. We will gladly accept photos of people recreating within the watershed, the incredible landscape of the Yellow Dog, any plants or animals you come across, and more. The contest is open until October, so if you don't already have photos in your inventory, you have plenty of time to hit the trails.

To submit photos, email us at ydwp@yellowdogwatershed.org with subject "YDWP Photo Exhibition". Please include your name, address, phone number, and the category of your photo. We're looking forward to viewing your submissions, and most importantly we hope you find excitement and new discoveries in the watershed, exploring the uniqueness of each season.

Peace Crane Mobiles

Peace * Joy * Tranquility

Judy Sarosik
jsarosik@charter.net
 906-869-8909

Like 'Peace Crane Mobiles' on Facebook!





blacksmith

Gordon E. Gearhart III

*Architectural, Sculptural
and Utilitarian Metalworks*

gearhartblacksmithing@gmail.com
Facebook: Gordon Gearhart Blacksmith
Instagram: Gearhart Blacksmithing

**P.O. Box 755
 Marquette, MI 49855
 (906)346-5990**



Beth Millner JEWELRY

**Handcrafted Jewelry
Inspired by Nature**



Easy online ordering at www.bethmillner.com
 521 W Washington St. Marquette, MI | (906) 226-3540

Jan Zender
&
Rochelle Dale

Woodwork, Quillwork,
Birch Bark Canoes, Trade
Silver, Painted Coats

P.O. Box 13
 Big Bay, MI 49808

www.zenderdalearts.com
zenderdale@hotmail.com

906-362-8521



WINTER 2022 ON THE YELLOW DOG



*Chauncey Moran sawing snow blocks on a Mudjekewis roof.
Photo by Nancy Moran.*



*Nancy Moran takes a break atop a half-cleared structure.
Photo by Chauncey Moran.*

MUDJEKEWIS UPKEEP

With a week's worth of supplies, we arrived at the Bear Paw trail off AAA road in preparation to snowshoe in to the Mudjekewis cabins to remove the snow from the roofs. It took several trips to haul in all we had brought, including the firewood. We soon devised a plan for the snow removal task, and after five days of sawing, shoveling, and pushing blocks, we relieved the pressure points from tons of snow on the winter cabin, main cabin, and various sheds.



John Anderson, Jan Zender, and Misun scouting the trail. Photo by Rochelle Dale.



*Lunch break at Chauncey and Nancy Moran's cabin near the river.
Photo by Rochelle Dale.*

YDWP SKI/SNOWSHOE

Despite the dire weather predictions, a number of hardy folks came out on Saturday, March 5th to ski, snowshoe, and socialize in the Community Forest north of the river. We did have a little rain at the beginning, but it soon tapered off, and it was a lovely day.

BACK IN THE DAY

ONE RIVER, MANY NAMES: THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE YELLOW DOG THROUGH HISTORY

By Brian Noell

Many lovers of our river know the Ojibwa story that accounts for its name. A man named Yellow Dog was paddling east on Lake Superior with his wife, baby, and teenage son just as a group of enemy Sauk warriors, following a trail that led from Lake Michigan, emerged on the shore at the mouth of the Chocoday. Climbing to a high lookout, they could see nothing in the fog but heard a baby crying and decided to pursue the Ojibwa party. The family made camp that night on the spot where our river empties into Lake Superior. The son was uneasy, feeling perhaps they were being followed. His father dismissed the young man's concern, but the latter arose early, took his gun and was settling into a hiding place just as the enemy emerged from their canoes. Sprinting back to camp to alert his sleeping family, he turned and fired on the enemy, killing two warriors at one shot. He managed to conceal himself from the assailants, but Yellow Dog and the rest of the family died in the attack.

The Sauks laid the bodies of their slain comrades in their canoes and slowly paddled back the way they had come, all the while singing their death song. The boy, vowing to take whatever revenge he could manage, tracked them from the shore. The warriors stopped on a small island near the mouth of the Garlic River and buried their dead. After they departed, the boy swam out, exhumed the bodies, decapitated them, and mounted the heads on pikes.

This story was recounted between 1893 and 1895 by Jacques LePique, an adventurer of mixed Ojibwa and French ancestry and related by marriage to that era's much better-known Anishinaabe figures, Charles and Charlotte Kawbawgam. LePique's narrative, recorded and redacted by the aspiring ethnologist Homer Kidder, concludes: "Thereafter the Chippewas called that place 'the island where the Sauks' heads hang,' and the stream that flows into the lake ten miles above, they called 'the river where old Yellow Dog was killed'".

The claim seems clear enough, but the history of our river's name is actually more complicated. LePique's account begins: "In ancient times, probably more than a hundred years ago, an old Chippewa named Yellow Dog was once camped with his wife and two children near Shot Point..." One thing worth noting is the use of the word "ancient". In other words, the events LePique is about to relate transpired along the south shore of Lake Superior in the time before European notions of time and the convention of writing imposed themselves on the Anishinaabe. In preliterate cultures, memory and place are more closely intertwined than in those who rely on writing to record history. In the absence of writing, places are linked with orally transmitted stories, which preserve important events in collective memory. A second point is that, in LePique's story, "ancient" or

legendary time, is not that far in the past. Indeed, it even stretches into the period of contact between Indians and Europeans, for a firearm features prominently in the narrative.

Ojibwa people in the vicinity clearly referred to our water course as "the river where old Yellow Dog was killed". Jacques LePique was the brother-in-law of Charlotte Kawbawgam, who was born on the Pine River in what is now the Huron Mountain Club and lived for decades with her husband on Presque Isle. The family had an intimate connection with the local geography and the lore it encoded. In their old age, Kidder's three informants recalled many of those legends, and Charlotte even recounted a story of her own about the origin of the name Sauks Head (albeit a completely different narrative from the one offered by LePique). The Kawbawgam and LePique narratives show that the local community preserved the history of their ancestors by associating places with important events, including "the river where old Yellow Dog was killed".

The contemporary Anishinaabe word for the river is "Osawi sim e nong", literally "Yellow Dog's Place". However, the Ojibwa name for the river as recorded on early Euro-American maps is not the equivalent of "Yellow Dog River", which seems to have come to English-speaking travelers and mapmakers via the French. In 1820 the geographer and historian Henry Schoolcraft created an index of distances between bodies of water along Lake Superior's south shore and included the Yellow Dog, presumably translating



Lake Independence, Iron River, and Lake Superior. Aerial photograph by Chauncey Moran.

from the French "Chien Jaune". The French were the earliest Europeans to reach this territory, and it is well documented that, as was the case with Jacques LePique's ancestors, they readily assimilated themselves to Anishinaabe culture in both dress and manners, intermarrying and raising families among and around their hosts. Attention to the history behind the name would therefore make sense in the French translation.

Maps from the 1830s and 40s call the Yellow Dog "St. John", a corruption of "Chien Jaune" into the French equivalent "St. Jean", which was then anglicized. Seemingly, by this time, the connection between the historical event and the name had faded even among French speakers, who passed the bastardization on to the English. The name "Iron" too may be a corruption of "John", perhaps poorly printed on an earlier map and misread. Or, it could be, as one source claims, that English explorers took it upon themselves to name the short watercourse between Lakes Independence and Superior for its color and taste. In any case, the first time the Iron River was given its own name by cartographers was in 1845-6, when it was referred to as the "Little Iron". This map (see below) was clearly based on an actual survey of the area, as can be seen by the grid and the description of geological and botanical features. Other maps of the era were not so detailed, containing gross inaccuracies that were seemingly passed down to later generations of cartographers. A geological map of the UP from 1849, for example, called the Yellow Dog River "The Little Iron" and mislabeled the Salmon Trout River as the Yellow Dog, an error



1845-6 map based on an actual survey. Note that the Yellow Dog, Lake Independence, and the "Little Iron" are all identified. Image courtesy Archives of Michigan.

that was perpetuated in another map of 1853, which was then reprinted several times through the latter nineteenth century.

The Ojibwa name Euro-Americans associated with the Iron River and the Yellow Dog itself is Sosawagaming (or a variation thereof). This name appeared in a map of 1832 as well as on the sketches done on the Lake Superior expedition of Michigan state geologist Douglas Houghton in 1840, transcribed as "Chuan gar war go me non". It provided the moniker for a short-lived camp associated with the Huron Mountain Club set up by J.M. Longyear in the 1890s near the mouth of the Iron. Also in the 1890s, Charles Kawbawgam and Jacques LePique provided Homer Kidder with a list of Ojibwa place names in our region. Kidder, a novice at the language, transcribed the name for Yellow Dog River as "Shaw zha wah gum e nong Sibi". In the Ojibwa tongue, "osawa" means "yellow". "Gami" (or "gumi") means "body of water" (think "Kitchi gami"). "Nong" signifies "place of", and "Sibi" is "river". The word for "dog", "animosh", or "sim", as it appears in the present-day Ojibwa name for the river, is nowhere to be found. A direct translation would be: "Place of the Yellow Water River".

What, then, should we make of this divergence in nomenclature? Considering that the contemporary Ojibwa name is "Yellow Dog's Place", there is no reason to doubt LePique's claim that indigenous locals called it "the river where old Yellow Dog was killed". On the other hand, this is not the name found on early maps in which Euro-Americans tried to transcribe the Anishinaabe name of the river. None of those who attempted transcriptions were Ojibwa speakers, which is clear from the significant variations in their renderings. Nevertheless, the Ojibwa word for "dog" doesn't appear to be in any version of the name recorded by cartographers. The Euro-American investigator who perhaps had the most

concern for accuracy in this regard was Kidder, who set out specifically to record Ojibwa place names in the region before the Kawbawgams, to his knowledge the best-informed native speakers in the area, passed away. Yet, even the name Charles Kawbawgam provided does not correspond to "Yellow Dog River".

Was Sosawagaming, then, the word just for the "yellow water" that flows gently to Superior from Lake Independence? It is notable that on many maps drawn between 1832 and 1853, Lake Independence was neither depicted nor named. This can be explained partly by the fact that these maps were on a state or UP-wide scale and were not informed by inland surveys of our region. In addition, the damming of the lake at its outlet made it a much larger body of water than it once was. In the mid-1890s Kawbawgam and LePique did provide a name for the lake in their list of Ojibwa places in the area: "Kitchi way quay dung Sawgaweegun". However, a contemporary tribal member and native speaker is suspicious of this formulation as given by Kidder. Merely "Sawgaweegun" would be the more accurate rendering: "The Lake Pouring Out".

Although Lake Independence has a place in Ojibwa nomenclature, the Iron River is not included in the Kawbawgam/LePique list, suggesting that the Anishinaabe had no separate name for it. On the other hand, there appears to have been more than one name for the Yellow Dog River (including what we now call the Iron). One was descriptive (Yellow Water), and the other linked the place with an important event in the past (Yellow Dog). As Europeans began to dominate the landscape, however, place names ceased to be transmitted with attention to local context. They also could be changed outright. For cartographers, a name primarily denoted a point on a map, not a location with identifying characteristics or cultural significance. The French were the first to render one of the river's Anishinaabe names into a European tongue, and then English-speaking mapmakers bastardized the French. Incomplete geographical knowledge and the changing landscape brought about by dam building contributed to further modification of the names of the bodies of water we now call the Yellow Dog River, the Iron River, and Lake Independence.

WWW.KALILZENDER.COM

906.362.8522

KALILZENDER@GMAIL.COM

INSTAGRAM:

@KALILZENDER_METALSMITHING

Kalil Zender

METALSMITHING

HANDMADE BESPOKE JEWELRY

YDWP would like to thank Kalil Zender Metalsmithing for honoring Earth Day by donating 10% of jewelry sales to our organization at a spring pop-up in downtown Marquette.

IMPRESSIONS OF NATURE: YDWP ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER PLEIN AIR ART FESTIVAL

The Yellow Dog Watershed is a recreational haven for outdoor enthusiasts, but it is also a source of inspiration for artists. On the morning of Saturday, September 10th artists of any age and skill-level are invited to gather at the Yellow Dog Community Forest trailhead on County Road 510. From here, they will take whatever materials they need and walk to a spot of their choosing to begin their creation. They may capture the beauty of our popular waterfalls or focus on the intricate details of a single wildflower on the forest floor. We welcome and encourage variability in medium and subject. After the allocated time is up, artists will return to the trailhead and present their pieces. The public is encouraged to come out and watch them work, or you can drop by at the end of the day to view the pieces on display.

We are still finalizing the details of this event, so watch for updates via email and through social media!



Photo taken along the Dead River, by Kathy Binoniemi.



Drawing by Kathy Binoniemi on sanded pastel paper. Photo by Jacklyn Lenten.

28TH ANNUAL OUTBACK ART FAIR

The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve is looking forward to participating in the 28th Outback Art Fair being held on July 30-31, 2022 at the Picnic Rocks/ Shiras Park in Marquette. This popular art show hosts 120 exhibitors and features roving musicians, food vendors, and over 8000 attendees. Each year event organizers welcome a handful of area nonprofits, and we are excited to have a booth space this year.

YDWP board members and volunteers will be educating visitors about the organization through displays, brochures, and conversation. Yellow Dog merchandise will be available for sale along with an eclectic array of donated and consigned artwork.

Would you be interested in sharing your talents with the YDWP and donating a handcrafted creation? We are accepting items on a full or 50/50 donation basis. Several donations have already come in! If you are ready to jump in, please contact YDWP Secretary Kristi Mills, 906-250-3350.

McKenzie Bay Retreat
8794 Co Rd 550 Big Bay 906 345-9467
tdarlene44@gmail.com



POWELL TOWNSHIP SALMON RELEASE

By John Highlen, President, Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Salmon in the Classroom (SIC) is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Trout Unlimited, and local schools. The DNR supplies fertilized Chinook salmon eggs and fish food. The Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited (FWCTU) provides the tank and other essential equipment, as well as help with set-up and overall support. The local school provides the energy and enthusiasm to raise and care for the fish, incorporating the rearing process into their curriculum. Usually starting sometime in November, the SIC program culminates in the spring with a fish release into a local river that is selected by the DNR.

On May 12, Brad Wiljanen's 7th and 8th grade class at Powell Township School in Big Bay celebrated another successful SIC program with their long-awaited fish release. FWCTU was on hand to provide a fly casting lesson and to help students release more than a hundred salmon that they had nurtured throughout most of the past school year into the Iron River (Yellow Dog), just northeast of Big Bay.

The fingerling salmon were transported to the river in buckets of water from the tank in which they had been raised. At the river, a few fish at a time were placed in plastic lunch bags full of that same water. Then, the bags of fish were submerged in the river for a few minutes prior to releasing them in order to allow the fish to acclimate to the slightly different water temperature of their new home. Well, their temporary new home, because the fish will eventually venture out into the vastness of Lake Superior for the majority of their life.

Once the fish mature, they will return to the river environment to spawn, starting the cycle over once again. How many of the SIC fish will survive to return to the river someday depends on a long list of factors and is anybody's guess. Regardless of how many make it to maturity, though, the primary focus of SIC is the learning that occurs and the connections with the natural world that are forged as the students carefully raise the fish. Still, if you happen to find yourself with a powerful Chinook on the end of your line someday, whether in a local river or out in the Big Lake, you just may have a Powell Township class to thank for the adventure.



*Powell Township students prepping for the release.
Photo by Brad Wiljanen.*



*Crossing the Iron River bridge with buckets of fingerling salmon.
Photo by Brad Wiljanen.*

TIRED OF LITTERED BEACHES? REPORT GREAT LAKES DEBRIS!

906-228-6095 EXT. 16

OR EMAIL INFO@SUPERIORWATERSHEDS.ORG

Superior Watershed Partnership & the Great Lakes Climate Corps are organizing to collect a wide range of debris both large and small on Great Lakes shorelines and in nearshore waters. You can help by reporting locations of:

- Large debris (appliances, tires, building materials, abandoned vehicles & fishing gear)
- Potential beach clean-up sites with lots of litter (plastic bags, bottles, cans, cigarette butts, etc.)



Funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program



BIRDS OF THE YELLOW DOG

By Nancy Moran



Redstart in Community Forest. Photo by Nancy Moran.

It's a sunny morning late in May, and the trail in the Yellow Dog Community Forest is bright with pale green of new growth, the sounds of rushing water, and songs of birds. Above us the Redstart flashes his colors from one tree to another, never stopping his song. The Ovenbird and Robin compete for highest decibels, and floating down from the new canopy of leaves is the melody of the Hermit Thrush. All through the branches are many warblers: Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, and a Black-throated Blue hiding in the understory of fir. In the sun near the riverbank is the Song Sparrow, as well as the Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireo. A Veery sings a fast flute-like call; the staccato call of the Kingfisher announces his arrival to his fishing perch; and a pair of Mergansers zoom along the river surface. And of course, the Chickadee, Goldfinch, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker join our walk from above. More birds are arriving: Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager. The Bald Eagle, high in the sun, cruises the river canyon in sweeping circles.

The Yellow Dog is a summer home for so many bird species, making a trek to the waterfalls even more spectacular! The jack pine plains also are nesting grounds for many birds, including the Kirtland's Warbler. Although there is no formal census this year, we will still be out looking for this protected bird on the Yellow Dog Plains.

Please get out to enjoy the many bird species this season, as midsummer will be here soon, and the birds will rest from nesting and caring for fledglings - such a spectacular season is spring!

FLY FISHING WORKSHOP THIS AUGUST!

Our inaugural fly-fishing workshop for novice fly fishermen and women will take place on August 27-28, 2022 on the Yellow Dog River. This collaborative event is hosted by the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve (YDWP), the Fred Waara chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU), and Superior Outfitters.

Classes and instructions will commence at the Zender/Dale Yellow Dog Forest Retreat at 10:00 am on Saturday and continue until midafternoon on Sunday. Participants do not need their own equipment: TU and Superior Outfitters will supply fly rods, flies, and other necessary accoutrements. However, participants should bring wading shoes of some sort and clothes that can get wet. Extra clothes might be a welcome comfort at the end of the day as well as a few snacks. Waders are optional but not necessary at this time of year. YDWP will provide camping sites and the meals on both days. No need to bring dishes, but do bring tent, sleeping gear, and a headlamp.

Classes will be limited to 20 students, so register early on the YDWP website starting in July, www.yellowdogwatershed.org. A \$40.00 or more donation is requested at registration. Youth 13-15 are welcome to attend with an accompanying adult, and teens 16-17 may attend alone with a parent's signature. Spots for Board members and accompanying relatives from YDWP and TU are limited. Check for availability. Maps to the site are forthcoming for registrants.

Contact rochelle@yellowdogwatershed.org or John Highlen with TU at jlhighlen@gmail.com for more information. Hope to see you in August!



THANK YOU MEMBERS AND DONORS

November 30th, 2021 - June 6th, 2022

Donors

Betsy Calcutt
James Campbell
Patrick & Sue Carey
John & Patricia Case
Tom Chapman
Mandy Chardoul
Kenneth & Maura Davenport
Patrick & Lynn de Freitas
Tony Depetro
Clare DePue
Edie Farwell & Jay Mead
Dusty Ferguson
Jo Foley
Chris Fries
Bruce & Debra Geldine
Daniel B. Hales
Dan R.J. Hales
Trapper Hales
Hannah Harriman
Susan Houston
David Kadell
Mary Ellen Krieg
Phyllis Lathrope
John & Karin Mattis
Janice McLean
Gordon Niessen
Terry & Francis O'Neill
Sam Prentice
Marilyn Proctor
Tim & Anne Rutkoske
Gloria & Frank Schoepf
Eugene & Connie Shatz
Eric Sobocinski
Jay Stielstra
Valerie Stromquist
Bruce Sugarman
Sheila & James Vandenberghe
Chip & Tracy Walklet
Gary Wilcox
Kay Williamson
Michael Wood
Susan Wood
Jeff Yurkanin

Renewing Members

Dylan Anderson
John & Allyssa Anderson
Karen Bacula
Dave & Heidi Barber
Sara & Ronald Basso
Charles Bastian
Milton & Elizabeth Bates
John & Rebecca Bercini
Michael & Shannon Bowen
William & Virginia Bowen
Randall & Marsha Burgett
Elizabeth Calcutt
John & Patricia Case
Gene & Carla Champagne
Kent Clow
Pamela Clute

Kevin Crupi
Kenneth & Maura Davenport
John Dick
Sara Drury
Karen Eldevick & Chip Truscon
Edie Farwell & Jay Mead
Jay & Linda Farwell
Clare Fastiggi & Abraham Turner
Mike Finlay
Jane Fitkin
Linda & Emerson Fleury
Jo Foley
Frank Foster
Charles Frenzel
Pat Fuller
George Girod
Mark Halonen
Fred Hawley
John & Jean Herbst
Susan & Warren Hingst
Susan Houston
Tom Hudson
Jay Johnson
Larry & Krista Johnson
Marjorie Johnson
David Kallio
Tim & Doree Kent
James & Barbara Kidder
William Kinjorski
Alan Koivunen
Keith Kuykendall
Paul & ZZ Lehmberg
Jacklyn Lenten
Alec Lindsay & Kate Teeter
Heather Ludwig
Mary Lunt
Maggie MacDevitt & Patrick St.
Germain
Paul Marin & Betsy Little
Fred & Kathy Maynard
Kerry McGinley & Karen Burkman
Roslyn & Kevin McGrath
Janice McLean
Colin McNaughton
Kristi Mills
Jerry Mohlman
Carol Moncrieff & Paul Rose
Polly Moore
Carolyn & Bob Myers
Curtis Noel
James Noone
Gale North
Richard Plonsky
Don Potvin
Nancy & Pete Price
Susan Puncocahr
Max & Mary Putters
Daniel Raish
John Rebers
Ann Reinthal
Susan Ritter
Kevin Rodibaugh
Joanne Rohde

John Rosenberg & Nancy Faaren
Tim & Ann Rutkoske
Daniel Russell
Art & Paula Saari
Tom & Mary Saphner
Judy & Roy Sarosik
Tom & Jane Scannell
Rob & Karen Schmitt
Mary Jo Schweinsberg Picard
Susan Schweinsberg Long
Eugene & Connie Shatz
Lynn Marie Suits
Rolf Swanson
Mary Tackett
Marilyn Tobin
Joel Trick
Mark Troudt
Claire & Michael Twohey
Jeannette Vrieland
Chip & Tracy Walklet
Mary Washburne
Todd White
Frances Whitman
Catherine & Donald Whitney
Kay Williamson
Ernest Wood
Michael Wood

Welcome New Members!

Laura Chapman
David & Kathryn Coffey
Brian Colton
Rhea & Jeff Dever
William & Diantha Harris
Travis & Rachel Hawkins
Jasper Karnes
Jack Kleiber & Rachel Dougherty
Eric Korhonen
Richard & Shelby Kortum
Michael Maki
Michael Marsden
Timothy Masters
Marie Masters
Gerard & Sharon Mattis
Maureen Peabody
Jim Rector
Curt Robare
Kathleen Scutchfield
Linda Seiler & Julius Wydzierzecki
Frank & Eda Siminski
Eileen & Darryl Small
Rick Stoll
Jason Tune & Patricia Desimone
Kirk Vredevoogd
William & Maureen Witkowski
Katie Zemenick

Honor Gifts

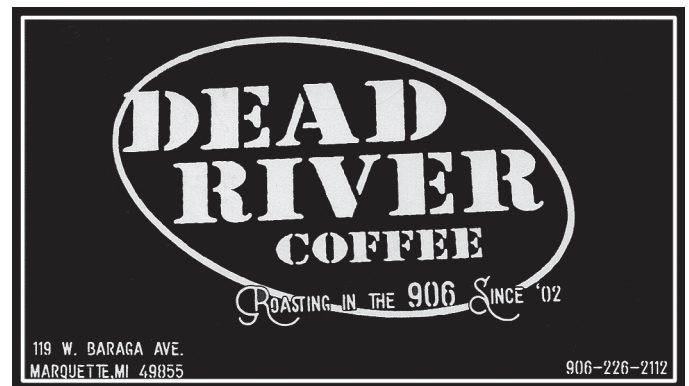
Rochelle Dale
In honor of Paul and Arlene Dale

Dan Rydholm
In honor of Rachel Carson and E.S. Schumacher

Special Fundraising Campaigns

John Biddlecome
Kalil Zender

If we have accidentally omitted your name, or if you find an error, we apologize. Please contact Brian at (906)345-9223 or email brian@yellowdogwatershed.org so we can make it right.





Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

PO Box 5

Big Bay, MI 49808

(906)345-9223

ydwp@yellowdogwatershed.org

www.yellowdogwatershed.org



*Wetland in the Christ Andersen Headwaters Preserve.
Photo courtesy of the Rydholm family.*



*Netted sculpin on the Salmon Trout River, Huron Mountain Club.
Photo by Sarah Heuer.*



*Moose tracks on a two-track heading to the Salmon Trout River, East Branch.
Photo by Sarah Heuer.*