

Simple, honest, historical:

Reflecting the Elements of the North



THE CANDLE FACTORY
&
HOME ELEMENTS

Along the West Bay Waterfront
Where Traverse City Began

GRANDVIEW PARKWAY AT HALL STREET



Protecting Our Environment Through Citizen Action and Education Since 1980



Artwork Courtesy of Mark Lindsay

May 16, 2025 | Our 36th Annual
Environmentalist of the Year Celebration

May 16, 2025

2025 NMEAC

36th Annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards & Celebration





2025 ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS

5:30 PM REGISTRATION IN MILLIKEN AUDITORIUM LOBBY

5:30 - 6:50 PM RECEPTION IN DENNOS MUSEUM ATRIUM

- Catering by Taproot Cider House, Light of Day Organic Tea, Higher Grounds Trading Company

7:00 PM PROGRAM

- Welcome and announcements
- Music by **J Hobbs**
- NMEAC Update
- Keynote Presentation: **Brad Kik**, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology

8:00 PM AWARD PRESENTATIONS

- Environmentalist of the Year: Agriculture 6
- Environmentalist of the Year: Business..... 7
- Environmentalist of the Year: Education 8
- Environmentalist of the Year: Grass Roots Group 10
- Environmentalist of the Year: Journalism and Communications..... 13
- Environmentalist of the Year: Professional 14
- Environmentalist of the Year: Public Service or Public Office 15
- Environmentalist of the Year: Volunteer..... 16
- June Thaden Service Award 18
- The John Nelson Water Service Award 18
- The Clarence Kroupa Award 18
- The Greg Reisig Prize for Environmental Journalism..... 18
- Holly T. Bird Recognition Award..... 18

9:30 PM AWARD CEREMONY CONCLUDES

- Socialize, drive safe, and please keep up the good work!

ABOUT US

The Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council is the region's oldest and best-known grassroots environmental advocacy and stewardship organization. Founded in 1980, NMEAC's mission is a simple one: "Preserving the natural environment through citizen action and education."

NMEAC's members are concentrated in the five-county region of Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Antrim, Benzie, and Leelanau, though support does come from as far away as Washington state. NMEAC's board members come from varied backgrounds, but all bring a fierce love of our region's environment to the activities and educational opportunities NMEAC offers.

The annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards is now in its 36th consecutive year. NMEAC is the only organization in the region to recognize the environmental work and advocacy of so many groups and individuals across our region.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Preserving the natural environment through citizen action and education.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ann Rogers - Chair
- Michael Foley - Co-Chair & Treasurer
- June Thaden - Secretary
- Bill Scharf - Recording Secretary
- Barbara Stamiris - Recording Secretary
- John Nelson
- Percy Bird
- David Petrove
- Barbara Schneider
- Susan Wheadon
- Madeline Baroli
- Rachel Ratliff

Proud to be a Zero Waste Event
Courtesy of **Bay Area Recycling**

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Brad Kik

Brad Kik is the co-founder and co-director of Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology, a non-profit organization that connects the lines between art, agriculture, local economy and ecology. Brad's varied background in film study, environmental activism, graphic design, community organizing, traditional music, writing, ecology, and permaculture plays a key role in shaping the cross-disciplinary work of Crosshatch.

Brad and his partner Amanda have their roots dug into ten acres in rural northern Michigan—Anishinaabe land—where they have raised pastured pigs and chickens, tap the sugar maples, and practice weaving people and place together. Brad regularly writes and presents on the intersections of art and ecology, particularly in regards to artist residencies and the role of the arts in rural development, and serves as a trustee of the Artist Communities Alliance.



crosshatch.org

Please Join NMEAC as a Member!

We are involved in partnership with other groups and agencies to mitigate climate change, to shut down Line 5, to become a 100% renewable energy community, to protect our trees and clean water, and to prevent urban sprawl. Consider joining one of our Action Groups that support the environmental issue that concerns you the most.

Suggested Membership Dues
\$10 Students
\$25 General

Memberships run October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. If you made a donation during that period, you are already considered a member.

Become a Member Tonight!

Sign up tonight at the Registration table (forms on several tables) or at [NMEAC.org](https://www.nmeac.org)

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: AGRICULTURE

All things local, organic, and sustainable when it comes to agriculture.

Adam Brown Grand Traverse Conservation District (Great Lakes Incubator Farm)

Adam Brown is the Agricultural Program Coordinator at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and manager of the Great Lakes Incubator Farm (GLIF). Adam is a conservationist and agrarian with a B.S. in Earth Science and minors in Biology and Environmental Studies. With over 12 years of hands-on experience in regenerative farming in Washington state and Northern Michigan, he is deeply committed to sustainable food production and land stewardship, focusing on improving agricultural practices while nurturing the ecosystems that support them.

Adam, through his work at GLIF, is dedicated to training the next generation of farmers through a local farming model rooted in regenerative agriculture. GLIF's goal is to build resilience within local food systems while fostering a lasting culture of health and wellness. There are currently more than 10 farmers in the program who receive training, hands-on learning, mentorship, and support in developing their own business model. Food produced by GLIF is donated to Goodwill Food Rescue.

The Lively Family The Lively Farm CSA & NeighborFood Market

The Lively Family has been deeply involved in shaping and supporting our local food system, and has been hands-on with that passion since 2019 with the cultivation of their farm property in Burdickville. It is home to the 3.5 acre Lively Farm, which is run full-time by Jane Lively and offers Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) memberships. The NeighborFood Market is Jim and Kelly Lively's latest addition to their property, which has also served as home to the LivelyLands music festival. The mission of the NeighborFood Market is to grow the local food economy in Southwest Leelanau County, strengthen the connection between customer and farmer, and improve access to locally grown, healthy food. It hosts a diversity of local vendors in addition to Lively Farm produce. Supporting community members facing food insecurity is a big goal of their endeavors - food assistance program vouchers are accepted at their market sites.

Daniel Marbury Crosshatch Center for Arts & Ecology

Daniel Marbury has been diligently working in food and farming systems in Northern Michigan for years; as Program Specialist at Crosshatch, he facilitates and supports a number of collaborative efforts for land steward support and education. Current programs he coordinates include a community micro-loan program, carbon farming and forestry cohort, agriculture guild groups, the Northern Michigan small farm conference and peer-to-peer farm tours. These workshops and events have reached thousands of people in our community over the last ten years. Daniel is an excellent facilitator and collaborator who excels at creating inclusive spaces where people from different backgrounds can connect and care for our environment and communities.



ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: BUSINESS

Takes voluntary measures to ensure their business has the least possible impact on the environment. Acts as a model of ecological sensitivity for peers and employees.

Doug Mansfield Mansfield Land Use Consultants

Doug Mansfield did considerable study and work into creating an alternative route for the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail section 9 proposal, that would reduce the amount of environmental damage originally proposed. This is one simple idea that helps with a win-win solution where it would save hundreds of mature trees, eliminate the problem of building a 20 plus foot high concrete wall to stop the dune advancing toward the trail, and it would save millions of dollars. Moving the trail to the other side of M-22 would also avoid the safety issue with the trail crossing dozens of private driveways.



REYNOLDS JONKHOFF
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Supporting the Environmentalist of the Year
Awards & Celebration

www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

Larry Mawby Mawby Sparkling Wines & Peninsula Housing

Larry Mawby is an activist, author, and founder of Mawby Sparkling Wines. According to Michigan Economic Development Corporation "Larry is enjoying the fruits of his labor as a wine pioneer in the Leelanau region...". Because of Mawby's deep respect for the land and sustainability, cover cropping, recycling, minimal chemical usage, energy efficiency by harnessing the wind and providing electric car charging stations for employees, water conservation, and eco-friendly packaging are utilized. The 30-acre Elm Valley property is protected under a conservation easement ensuring the preservation of Leelanau's natural beauty. After spending the past 50 years living in Leelanau and working in the community to implement more sustainable ways of living here, Larry started his latest project, Peninsula Housing, in 2021 with the goal of creating housing in Leelanau County that is affordable and will remain affordable for generations. Peninsula Housing is a Community Land Trust (CLT), a private, nonprofit corporation created to provide secure affordable access to land and housing for the benefit of the community. The CLT works to provide access to ownership of housing and affordable workforce apartment rentals for people who would otherwise be priced out of the housing market. Peninsula Housing's first projects include single family homes and duplexes. They are working to develop an energy-efficient, affordable, rental, apartment complex on land owned by Peninsula Housing just outside of Suttons Bay.

...continued

Ellis Wills-Begley & Sophie Pacelko Balecraft

Ellis and Sophie are local architectural designers who advocate for carbon conscious and natural building methods. They are co-founders of Bale Craft, a team of architects, farmers, builders, designers, teachers, thinkers, and doers with a shared vision of crafting sustainable solutions that benefit the climate, health, and housing. They design custom homes using straw bale construction methods, and fabricate straw-based, structurally insulated panels. In 2024, Ellis co-convened a "Natural Building & Healthy Home Symposium" with the help of many colleagues and mentors, including Thomas Hirsch, Suzannah Tobin, Deanne Bednar, Gary Cook, and Cody Ley. The Symposium discussed the impacts of toxic built environments on human health. Builders, designers, and those interested in natural building joined in on the day-long event, co-hosted by Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology. Balecraft's vision is not just about building homes- it's about addressing our labor, housing, and material needs with solutions rooted in local materials and community.

.....

FLOW
FOR LOVE OF WATER

A Great Lakes law and policy center
and *proud NMEAC supporter!*

www.ForLoveOfWater.org

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: EDUCATION

Integrates environmental ethics into the curriculum and daily experience of students and instills in students a healthy respect for the natural world of which we all are a part. Helps students understand the long-range impacts of their lifestyle.

Kelsey Taylor NoMi Forest Explorers

Kelsey Taylor gives endlessly of her time, energy, and personal resources to educate the next generation to be good stewards of our planet Earth. She coordinates with the conservation district, NFS, NPS, and others to provide quality educational experiences for children in Northern Michigan. She is passionate, kind, and committed. I am so thankful to have her provide this nonprofit group to my children and community! Check out her Facebook group to learn more about all the wonderful work she puts into the Forest Explorers group.

...continued

Jo Jaczkowski SEEDS

As an EcoCorps Crew Leader at SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers, Jo goes above and beyond to spread knowledge about and love for the natural world. Jo simultaneously does the work to restore Michigan’s habitat while teaching others the importance of the work they are doing. Jo’s passion is contagious to the others on the crew, frequently other young people. Whether it’s planting wildflowers for the Karner Blue Butterfly or building a boardwalk on the North Country Trail to prevent erosion, Jo is always ready to make the connection between their project that day and the big-picture impacts. Their wealth of knowledge and context brings value to each project (and to their trivia team every Wednesday)! Jo is a Master Composter and the Compost Manager at SEEDS. They teach others about composting, including through NMC’s Extended Education courses. This year, they will facilitate expanded composting education at the SEEDS Farm at Historic Barns Park.

Rachel Straughen Grand Traverse Conservation District

Rachel is the Education Director at the Grand Traverse Conservation District. She is passionate about conservation, wildlife, and education. Rachel has served in her role at GTCD for over six years, connecting with thousands of students and visitors through impactful environmental education programming. In addition, she has been a mentor and role model to young adults getting started in the environmental education field by guiding interns and early career employees at GTCD. She is thoughtful and intentional in her approach to mentorship and training. Rachel leads by example in her teaching techniques, is organized, is a strong communicator, and always seeks to engage community partners in her work. The Grand Traverse region is lucky to have her as a promoter of environmental education!

Cheri Richmond Glen Lake Public Schools

Thanks to Cheri Richmond, a teacher and advisor at Glen Lakes School, students will be learning about recycling and composting. Cheri shared that the goal for the program is that it is student led and sustainable. The roll out of the students’ goals will be Earth Day. It is our young people who will lead the way and we are so thankful for those like Cheri who help to lead them

• • • • •

Proudly Supporting EOY



ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: GRASS ROOTS GROUP

Empowers citizens to have an effective voice in addressing important environmental issues. Is effective in bringing about change that will protect or improve the environment.

Sam Wolfe Sleeping Bear Wildlife Fund

Sam Wolfe had the idea and ambition to establish a wildlife rehab organization in northern Michigan because she saw how this area needed that type of service. As more folks continue to develop and move to this beautiful area, the potential for human-wildlife conflicts will continue to increase. Sam does this work (connecting with the public, fundraising, actually caring for and rehabilitating numerous native wildlife species) alongside her day job and other life responsibilities. She is inspiring and is really making a difference for all of the organisms in her community (human and otherwise!).

The Board of New Community Vision New Community Vision

Over the past two years, the non-profit New Community Vision has worked strategically in partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and broader community of Leelanau to ensure the acquisition of the former Timber Shores campground through grassroots fundraising and organizing efforts. NCV formed in 2023 in response to the proposed plans for RV park development at the site, and garnered the support of more than 300 individual donors, foundations and community groups to support a partnership with the Band for reacquisition and protection of the land. Mashkiigaki (which is Anishinaabemowin for 'place of the medicines') will now be a nature preserve that is permanently preserved and owned by the GTB Land Trust, and will be stewarded by a multigenerational group of tribal elders, youth, and natural resources department managers.

Meag Schwartz Great Lakes Great Responsibility

Meag Schwartz a steward who will not take no for an answer. A beach visit in 2020 led to the foundation of a nonprofit organization, Great Lakes Great Responsibility, that has a wider reach each year. What I love most about GLGR is how clearly rooted the organization and its goals are in the founder's heart. Meag saw trash on her own beach, and said, "Screw it! I will not stop until I have picked up one MILLION pieces of coastal debris."

At the root of all of our stewardship is the voice of our younger selves screaming for change. Meag heard that voice and is building a movement to ensure that her younger self is heard. With over 300,000 pieces of coastal debris picked up so far with the help of stewards on the shore of each Great Lake, Meag's power to amplify her mission is deserving of recognition.

Julia Chambers A Few Friends of the Environment of the World

Julia Chambers and Kate Lutchko started AFFEW (A Few Friends for the Environment of the World) in 1990. Julia and Kate wanted to work with the community to create a healthier environment for all. AFFEW has served Ludington and Mason County ever since.

...continued

Lynne Moon

Realtor



With 43 years of experience in real estate, she is well informed as to the market and will guide you through the process with ease and confidence!

Lynne Moon
(231)218-6667
moonu@charter.net



AFFEW has been an all-volunteer group. AFFEW's activities have included:

- Educational programs on wetlands, dunes, air and water quality, fracking, and renewable energy.
- Hands-on projects and activities including Hazardous Waste Collection Days.
- Family Earth Day Celebrations.
- Christmas tree recycling, household battery collection, dune grass plantings at Ludington State Park, invasive species pulling, four yearly beach sweeps, and native plant sales selling over 8000 plants over the years.
- A Community Garden where kids raise food for their families and the pantries and create art inspired by nature.
- A "Snakes Alive" program by Nature Discovery that brings live Michigan-only snakes to all 4th graders in Mason County.

AFFEW is a citizen powerhouse of energy and activism, a model for other groups across the state.

Tim Dowd Kasson Township Neighborhood Association

In Kasson Township, Leelanau County, a request was made to permit a motorbike event claiming there would be little environmental damage but the neighbors led by the Kasson Township Neighborhood Association felt that the damage would be considerable. An environmental attorney and judge agreed.

Ray & Jan Pezzi

The Pezzi's have shown a commitment to acquiring and donating land to the Leelanau Conservancy (LC) over the last 5+ years, leading to preservation of habitat in the face of rampant development in our area.

From the LC 2020 Annual Report:

"2020 saw the opening of the David and Phyllis Stites Natural Area, within walking distance of the Village of Suttons Bay. We are grateful to Ray and Jan Pezzi for donating this beautiful land The land had once been slated for development, with up to 60 houses planned. Instead, hikers are now enjoying a beautiful hardwood forest." From the Glen Arbor Sun (March 2025): "Thanks to support from Ray and Jan Pezzi, the Leelanau Conservancy has preserved a vital wetland near the Leo Creek Preserve south of Suttons Bay Their generosity has paved the way for Phyl's Forest The preserve, which will remain wild and full of life, is 67 acres and named in honor of Phyllis Stites, the late mother of Jan Pezzi."



ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS

Helps the public develop a deeper understanding of the environmental issues facing the region. Takes the initiative in investigative reporting of environmental issues.

Daniel Wanschura Interlochen Public Radio

Dan's reporting as the Host and Executive Producer of Points North podcast through Interlochen Public Radio has shared stories from the Great Lakes region in a rich and engaging format. His journalism highlights stories about the land, water, and inhabitants of the Great Lakes that may otherwise not be told. In doing so, Dan conveys the richness of our beautiful region through research and storytelling. He brings a sense of place to listeners, connecting us deeper with our home. In recent years, Dan has also developed a fun community-oriented Great Lakes trivia series, "Pints North". In this way, he is extending the stories and learning beyond the podcast format to engage people through community events. Dan is a prime example of the importance of supporting local journalistic efforts and the positive impact it can have for a region.



IN MEMORY OF

Sandi McArthur

A Special Friend, a Steward of the Earth
& Volunteer Extraordinaire

Ellie Katz Interlochen Public Radio

Ellie Katz reports on science, conservation and the environment with Interlochen Public Radio. Before joining IPR in June 2023, she had stints at Heritage Radio Network, FRQNCY Media, Stitcher and Michigan Public. She also co-wrote season three of the climate change podcast A Matter of Degrees. Her work with IPR has been featured on NPR, Here & Now, Science Friday and more. Whether reporting on microplastic monitoring in the Great Lakes, federal funding uncertainty, or the connection between climate change and extreme weather events, her stories are always well-researched and compelling. Most recently she has been visiting the ice storm-damaged areas of northern Michigan to talk to people raising trees for harvest, maple syrup producers and others about damage to the forests.



ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: PROFESSIONAL

Provides outstanding leadership in addressing a major environmental issue in the region. Serves as a model of ecological sensitivity for others in the region to follow in daily life and work.

Christine Crissman Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay

As the executive director of the Watershed Center and the leader of our region's annual freshwater summit, Christine is a trusted personality in our freshwater community. The Watershed Center's education resources continue to expand their reach into different audiences including shoreline property owners and outdoor recreators of all kinds. 2025 marks her twelfth year as the executive director of TWC and I believe that deserves to be celebrated!

Heather Smith & Sam Ogle Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay & Elk-Skegemog Lake Association

Heather and Sam have worked extremely diligently to build a compelling case against Burnette Foods for their persistent violation of the Clean Water Act and associated pollution of Spencer Creek and the Elk-Skegemog watershed. They have combed through untold thousands of documents, been deposed as part of the trial process, provided technical challenges to Burnette's experts, etc. All of this effort is done on behalf of all of us, to protect our precious ground and surface water.

James Dake Grass River Natural Area

James joined GRNA as Education Director in February 2014, overseeing a wide range of programs including public and school programs, events, camps, kayak tours, interpretive exhibits, signage, and publications. James is the author of Grass River's Field Guide to Northwest Michigan and currently lives in Elk Rapids. Originally from Flushing, Michigan, James earned his M.A. in Science Education and is a certified teacher in Michigan. He is also a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation.

• • • • •



Visit us at gtbay.org

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: PUBLIC SERVICE OR PUBLIC OFFICE

Takes the lead in constructing proactive legislation or politics that protect or enhance the environment. Displays integrity and impartiality in dealing with potentially controversial issues relating to the environment.

Sandra Witherspoon Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Mashkiigaki — formerly known as Timber Shores, a campground and planned RV park near the town of Northport — is Anishinaabemowin for ‘place of the medicines.’ This 187 acres of ecologically critical coastal wetlands and 1,800ft of shoreline are part of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians’ ancestral homeland, and have now been returned to the stewardship of the Band. This is a heartening example of the global ‘Land Back’ movement gaining momentum, and should be a point of pride for the whole Leelanau community. The Band was awarded a large grant from NOAA to purchase the property along with support from the non-profit New Community Vision on advocacy and private fundraising efforts. The area will be a nature preserve that allows for public educational and/or recreational use in designated areas all under the stewardship of the GTB. Restoration efforts will be led by a multi-generational group of tribal elders, youth, and natural resources department managers.



Ellie Johnson Leelanau Conservation District

As the District Forester covering Leelanau, Benzie, and Grand Traverse counties, Ellie is an outstanding public servant funded by State of Michigan tax dollars allocated to the Michigan Forestry Assistance Program. Ellie is the main point of contact for forestry technical assistance on private landowners’ land; she makes hundreds of site visits consulting and educating people on how to enhance the ecology of their spaces, whether that is how to control invasive species, which tree/shrub species to plant, or why maintaining a vernal pool is important to amphibian populations. When not meeting with landowners one-on-one, she is educating the broader community on how to best forestry practices, hosting webinar series, and collaborating with other local conservationists. Ellie combines her knowledge and passion with a motivation to go beyond her title of District Forester. I cannot think of someone more deserving of the recognition for her direct, impactful public service!



ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: VOLUNTEER

Provides outstanding leadership in addressing a major environmental issue in the region. Serves as a model of ecological sensitivity for others in the region to follow in daily life and work.

Jill Egan Inland Seas Education Association

Jill Egan is a standout volunteer with Inland Seas Education Association and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association. Speaking about ISEA specifically, she leads groups of students onboard the schooners with grace no matter the conditions. Jill is an incredible asset when welcoming new stewards into the fold; her presence at every training helps new volunteers find their footing within the organization. Truly, ISEA's volunteer coordinator would lose her marbles without her supportive guidance each spring. Thank you, Jill, for all that you do as a freshwater steward in the community.

Vicki Olsen Sierra Club Clearwater Network

Volunteer Vicki Olsen is a ray of sunshine in Northwestern Michigan. She brings bright energy and enthusiasm to whatever she does: putting solar panels up and gardening at home, bringing solar to many as CBS Solar Assessment Coordinator, leading highway cleanups and nature hikes for Sierra Club Clearwater Network or initiating ways to help folks in need. If she sees a problem, Vicki will go at it before being asked!



CIDER.
SPIRITS.
EARTH TO TABLE EATS.
OUTDOOR PATIO.
LIVE MUSIC.

Downtown TC, Corner of Front & Park | taproottc.com | 231.943.2500

Ziggy Kozicky Great Lakes Environmental Festival

Ziggy Kozicki was the founding chairperson of the Great Lakes Environmental Festival (GLEF) which has been held annually in Manistee, MI since 2022. The day-long festival celebrates environmental activism across many disciplines by engaging

...continued

environmental activist organizations and businesses in staffing information tables at the Environmental Expo and featuring subject matter experts presenting their work in short presentations in the auditorium. Public engagement and attendance have grown steadily over the years due to Ziggy's tireless work promoting and publicizing this festival. The 2025 GLEF will be held on Saturday March 22, 2025, in celebration of World Water Day.

Jim Kure Multiple, including Grand Traverse Conservation District
Jim is a retired doctor living in Traverse City. He is an extremely active volunteer with multiple organizations in our area, with a focus on the environment and helping others. With the Grand Traverse Conservation District, Jim helps lead modules during their NEST field trips for school groups, and he helps with trail maintenance work and tree plantings at Brown Bridge and on the NER. He is a member of the Brown Bridge and NER Advisory committees, and is chairman of the latter. Jim is a certified sawyer, and helps to maintain the North Country Trail, removing downed trees and other hazards to keep the trails safe for users. Jim volunteers with the Watershed Center in their Adopt-A-Stream program, and with Goodwill's Food Rescue program.

Paula Dreeszen Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy could not achieve its mission to such a high degree without the contributions of treasured volunteer Paula Dreeszen. This year will mark Paula's 20th year as a volunteer, contributing over 10,000 hours of her time. Her passion for safeguarding native plants has led her to many hours of pulling invasive garlic mustard in the 3,800 acre Arcadia Dunes: C.S. Mott Nature Preserve, and leading other volunteers in these efforts. She has helped install raptor boxes, monitor birds, and create signage detailing the history of the property, ensuring that visitors understand the importance of protecting this spectacular natural area from development. Every year she leads several popular botanical hikes, further helping the public to learn about and engage with the land. Paula's service to the natural areas that define our region is unmatched, and we will all continue to benefit from her dedication for years to come. Please join us in honoring her many years of work in improving the ecosystems that we all love and enjoy!

.....

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
—Margaret Mead



BOARD AWARDS

JUNE THADEN SERVICE AWARD

Has worked diligently for decades as an environmental volunteer to protect and educate our natural environment.

THE JOHN NELSON WATER SERVICE AWARD

Has made outstanding contribution to protect, preserve, and restore the waters of the Great Lakes, and educate people about that effort.

THE CLARENCE KROUPA AWARD

Has shown a lifetime of achievement and commitment to the cause of environmental protection, particularly in northern Michigan.

THE GREG REISIG PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

Has created a body of work as an author, a person writing for a non-profit which publishes this work, or an organization, working in newspapers, broadcast media, online publications in any media, including videos within the State of Michigan. This recipient will receive an award of \$1,000.

HOLLY T. BIRD RECOGNITION AWARD

We lost a shining light in the environmental community this year and wish to honor her contribution.

In recognition of Holly's tireless work as an Indigenous attorney, activist, and Water Protector, in particular for the water of our cherished Great Lakes. Holly will be remembered for the urgency and heart she brought to the effort to shut down Line 5 and defend Indigenous treaty rights.

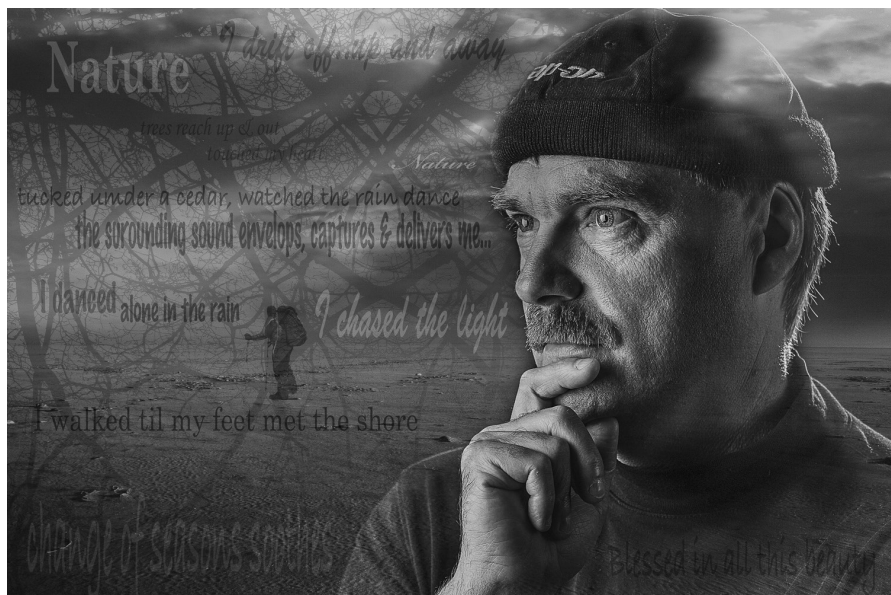
• • • • •



JHobbs

Music That Empowers

jhobbsmusic.com



Our program cover photo has been donated to us by Mark Lindsay. Mark was born in Northwest Lower Michigan, and has always held Michigan's natural beauty close to his heart. An avid hiker and backpacker, he has traveled through some of Northern Michigan's most secluded and very pristine wilderness. His passion for capturing nature's true beauty is evident, through the images he captures. The Lake Michigan shoreline and the surrounding communities hold a special place in Mark's heart.

www.marklindsaycollection.com



Please help Us to Build

The NMEAC Environmental Legacy Fund

A community financing resource for litigation and expert testimony needed for protecting the pure water, clean air, and vibrant natural communities of Northern Michigan



Photo courtesy Erik Przekop

The Environmental Legacy Fund of the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) is already at work protecting our environment and strengthening the public's voice. At the request of local citizens and two other community groups, we launched a legal action challenging a decision by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) that granted a developer the go-ahead to fill wetlands in the Little Betsie River Watershed near Interlochen. By overturning this permit, we kept the wetlands intact, protecting water quality and precious wildlife habitat along the Little Betsie.

Defending the environment of Northern Michigan is expensive work. Please give via our website or mail your tax-deductible check today to:

The NMEAC Environmental Legacy Fund
PO Box 1166
Traverse City, MI 49685-1166

For more information about NMEAC or the Environmental Legacy Fund, visit
nmeac.org

MANY THANKS TO OUR UNDERWRITERS

NMEAC wishes to sincerely thank the following groups and individuals who have made tonight's 36th Annual Environmentalist of the Year event (our 46th anniversary) an outstanding success:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ⇒ Michael & Mary Foley | ⇒ Light of Day Organics |
| ⇒ John and Lynne Moon Nelson | ⇒ Higher Grounds Trading Company |
| ⇒ Bill Scharf | ⇒ Bill Latka |
| ⇒ Ann Rogers | ⇒ Jeremy Hobbs Reisig |
| ⇒ Herrington Fitch Family Foundation | ⇒ Sean Reisig |
| ⇒ Terri Reisig | ⇒ Taproot Cider House |
| ⇒ June Thaden | ⇒ Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home |
| ⇒ Amanda & Paul Brink | ⇒ Storylicio.us |
| ⇒ Rebecca Norris | ⇒ Sally Somsel |
| ⇒ Barbara Stamiris | ⇒ Rachel Ratliff |
| ⇒ For Love Of Water (FLOW) | ⇒ David Petrove |
| ⇒ Kenneth Smith | ⇒ Susan Wheadon |
| ⇒ Oryana Food Co-op | ⇒ Cathie Cline |
| ⇒ Candle Factory | ⇒ Kima Kraimer |
| ⇒ Bay Area Recycling (BARC) | ⇒ Ruthanne and Wayne Kladder |



COMMUNITY CO-OP

SINCE 1973

*Empowering Community
Through Cooperative Economics,
Conscious Eating,
and Collective Responsibility.*

260 E. TENTH ST. | 3587 MARKETPLACE CIR.
WWW.ORYANA.COOP



Leo Creek Preserve

An outdoor learning laboratory, nature preserve and
botanical garden in Suttons Bay, Michigan



LEARN MORE
leocreekpreserve.com