

2008 Envirothon Team

Meghan Stan, Brittany Ockenfels, Sam Strahl, Kaitlin Chenoweth, Audri Maki, and Brent Lipponen

The team is composed of students from Sault Area High School. Advisors were SAHS teacher, Lynn Dunham, Johanna Nugent, Civil Engineer from the District and Amanda Bosak, aquatic biologist with the Bay Mills Indian Community. The Envirothon theme for 2008 was "Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources". The state competition was held at Lake Superior State University. Our team finished fourth out of 23 teams.



Earth Steward Award

Richard Stevenson is being honored for his work with the private land owners. He was a service forester for the Department of Natural Resources from 2003 to 2007, (a position he greatly enjoyed and has a real aptitude for). Richard still works for the DNR but is no longer able to assist landowners. State funding for this program was cut and Richard was assigned other duties. The District has recently joined a movement in the state to try to get these foresters back. They play an important role in the future of the forest industry in this state and are sorely missed.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in forestry and a master's degree in silviculture from Michigan State University, Richard worked in Naubinway, then moved to a position downstate. (When he decided to put his expertise to work for private land owners, he chose to come to an area that he was familiar with.) He currently works out of the Newberry DNR office.

If you would like to know more about what the private lands forester could do for you, please contact our office (635-1278).



Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program Summary Report 2007 - 2008

MGSP is pleased to announce that two new farms were verified under the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program in 2008. Mr. Max Benne received all three of the MAEAP verifications: farmstead, cropping, and livestock. The second verified producer under the cropping system is Gerald Ross. Gerald is also working on his farmstead verification. Congratulations to these producers!

Fourteen producers took the opportunity to receive an *Assist* for the Groundwater program this past year. Five were Farm*A*Systs, four were Small Farm*A*Systs, four were Crop *A*Systs and one was a Livestock*A*Syst. Participants implemented 58 risk reduction practices. Improvements in the management of pesticides including pesticide storage, security, mixing procedures, containment, and disposal of containers have made our drinking water and surface water safer from possible contamination.

Despite the state's financial difficulties and having fewer cost share dollars for this program, we did close four wells, made three 'green payments' for MAEAP verification, and cost shared one pesticide containment building liner. The free well water testing for nitrates, nitrites, and triazine pesticides had a low turnout this year (32 samples). No hits were detected for any of the tested contaminants in Chippewa County.

Eighteen persons attended the Composting Workshop for "Farmers and Backyard Gardeners." Thanks again to Tom Gage for allowing us to come to his farm to see his operation and learn from his experience.

The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program is offering a new Assist tool called Greenhouse*A*Syst. This tool was developed to assist greenhouse owners with the unique challenges faced in growing crops in a greenhouse. I am looking forward to a productive year in 08-09. Submitted by Christine Perreault Groundwater Tech 906-635-2136



2009 Cooperator of the Year

A willingness to consider your impact on the environment when making decisions for your farm and the desire to be a better conservationist are two qualities required to be eligible for the District's "Cooperator of the Year" award. Max Benne's 270 acre farm in Rudyard is an excellent example of someone who is working to achieve these goals.

Mr. Benne currently participates in two Farm Bill programs. He is implementing a prescribed grazing system on the farm through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and has successfully moved from Tier one to Tier two in the Conservation Security Program (CSP). In 2006, he hosted a field day for the Michigan Sheep Breeders Association. This past year, he had the farm MAEAP verified (see article below)

Max began farming in Chippewa County in 1975. He has 200 tillable acres here and produces hay as well as grazing sheep. Max is also a partner in a large farm

FINANCIAL REPORT

October 1, 2007- September, 30 2008

Opening balance- \$36,536.00

OPERATING RECEIPTS:

MDA Operating Grant	11,600.00
MDA-Emerald Ash Grant	94,161.00
USDA- NRCS Grant	54,534.00
MDEQ- 319 Grant	90,990.00
Chippewa County Allocation	24,000.00
Soil Erosion Fees	5,458.00
Equipment/Land Rentals	2,186.00
Engineer Grant	62,887.00
Sale of Materials	7,981.00
Miscellaneous	4,383.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$358,180.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Annual Meeting	1,504.00
Auditor	1,200.00
Capital Expenses	5,188.00
Contract Expenses	71,235.00
Directors Expense	1,259.00
Educational Workshops	3,603.00
Employee Salary & Taxes	198,681.00
Equipment Maintenance	1,491.00
Fees, Dues, etc.	1,275.00
Informational Materials	4,658.00
Insurance, Bonding	947.00
Mileage	2,676.00
Miscellaneous	1,910.00
Office Costs	11,906.00
Program Expenses	31,698.00
TOTAL DISBURSMENTS	\$339,231.00

Ending balance - \$55,485.00



Natural Resource Conservation Service 2008 Report

Helping People Help the Land

During 2008, NRCS implemented many different conservation practices to protect the soil, plants, animals, and water resources within our community. NRCS assisted landowners with installing fence on their farms to protect sensitive areas (streams, wetlands, etc.) or to begin prescribed grazing systems for their livestock. We installed 11,479 ft. of fence, and protected 15.4 acres of sensitive areas. NRCS also installed windbreaks and hedgerows on private lands throughout our area. Windbreaks and hedgerows provide many different benefits for landowners including: the protection of farmsteads and livestock, snow management, visual screens, and travel corridors for wildlife. NRCS, through the farm bill conservation programs, planted 8,871 ft. of windbreaks and hedgerows this year. We also assisted landowners with reforestation activities over the last year. Establishing trees and shrubs will provide habitat for wildlife, cleaner air and water, and renewable resources for future generations. 15.7 acres of trees & shrubs were established.

In 2008, we had landowners selected to participate in 4 conservation programs. They were the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (\$80,350.00), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (\$29,637.00), and the Wetland Reserve Program (\$149,350.00). The Wetland Reserve Program is the most popular program with our landowners and to date the program protects over 5,500 acres of restored wetlands within our district. A total of \$259,337.00 was contracted to landowners within our district, to install conservation practices on their farms and rural properties this year.

If you are interested in implementing conservation practices on your property, please contact the Chippewa East-

Poster Contest Winners

Winners from Grade 1 :

1st place is awarded to Lily Freel from Les Cheneaux Elementary School in Cedarville. Jared Swain is the second place winner and third place goes to Annyka Franklin, both from Turner Howson School in Rudyard.

Winners from Grade 2 :

Morgan McLeod from Les Cheneaux Elementary School received the blue ribbon. Second place went to Kyle Hughes and third place was awarded to Cody Nienhuis, both from Turner Howson School. Honorable mention goes to Erin Nicklas from Turner Howson, Sammy Cox and Caleb Wilson both from Bahweting School in the Sault and Hunter Coneset from Soo Township.

Winners from Grade 3 :

1st place goes to Lauren Weber from St. Mary's School in the Sault. The second place winner is Sierra Dugan from Turner Howson. Third place was a tie by Ramido Staten and Karrington Christie, both from Rudyard Middle School. Honorable mentions go to Brendan Maclaren from Soo Township, Johnathon Coullard from Pickford, Holly Maser from Drummond Island and Trista MacDowell from the Rudyard Middle School.

Leaf Contest Winners

First place winner in the fourth grade division is Linda Raynard from Pickford. Second place was awarded to Timothy Ross also from Pickford and third place was taken by Scott Bosley from Detour.

For the fifth grade division, first place was taken by Kevin Komarnizki from Soo Township School. Second place went to Cody Mayer from Washington School in the Sault. Third place winner was Cece Werner and an Honorable Mention went to Jake Jacques both from St. Mary's.

Educator of the Year

The award is presented to Amanda Bosak for her work with the Envirothon program. Amanda's roots are in Hartland, Michigan (small town outside Brighton). She came to the EUP in 2007 for a position with the Bay Mills Indian Community in their Biological Services Department. Amanda has a bachelor's degree in aquatic biology and a master's in biology, both from Central Michigan University.

Amanda has a deep interest in the environment and a desire to share that with others. She is a member of BPAC and the Anishinabek Joint Commission for the St. Mary's River Tribes, both here and in Canada.

When asked what she liked about the Envirothon program, Amanda replied, "Kids interested in our environment and the Envirothon share experiences with each other and environmental professionals which enable them to excel in future endeavors"



2008 Annual Meeting Minutes

The evening began with a potluck dinner. Chairman, Forbes McDonald, opened the business meeting at 7:30pm. The minutes and financial report for last year were presented in the annual report. They were accepted as presented. Tina Love was re-elected to the Board and Tom Allan was elected as a new director, replacing Beckie Priehs, who was not able to seek re-election after 9 years on the Board.

Plaques were presented to the first place winners of the Leaf and Poster Contests. The "Water Guardian" award was given to Munuscong River Watershed Association. The Cooperator of the Year Award was presented to Terin and Sheri Salo. The Bell Centennial Farm in Soo Township (owned by Arlen and Lovada Bell) received the "Barn Heritage" award. The Earth Steward award was presented to Bob and Tina Love and Mike and Joan Kowalski. Both these recipients qualified for Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verification- the first to do so in the District. A new award "Educator of the Year" was presented to Terri Browning Wolski from Soo Township School.

The evening ended with a recap of the MAEAP program by NRCS Soil Conservationist Will Bomier.

Our mission is to assist with land use and management through education, community projects and services.

If you are interested in helping us continue our work, please consider a donation or beneficiary contribution. Donations are tax deductible and all support is greatly appreciated.



WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATE

The District's Watershed Program stretched its legs in 2008 across almost the entire Eastern Upper Peninsula! We dove headlong into the Les Cheneaux Watershed Implementation Project in the Cedarville and Hessel area, completed a Rapid Watershed Assessment of the St. Marys, Two-Hearted, Tahquamenon, and Whiskey River watersheds, and submitted a grant proposal for a watershed planning project on the Munuscong River Watershed. To keep up on our mission to assist land owners and communities with land use and management through education, community projects and services, we worked on the following projects:

- *continued to work on improving three area trout streams by repairing 6 road/stream crossings

- *increased awareness about low impact development techniques, home septic system management, fisheries/wildlife management, and land protection strategies through several workshops, newsletters, and community correspondence.

- *worked with Little Traverse Conservancy to permanently protect several acres of habitat critical to water quality and aquatic wildlife

- *helped Clark Township Planning Commission complete the update of their Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances to protect water quality in the Les Cheneaux Area watershed.

- *removed almost 4 tons of hazardous waste in the Les Cheneaux watershed by hosting a hazardous waste collection.

Our St. Mary's River and Eastern Upper Peninsula (Two-Hearted, Tahquamenon, and Waiskey Rivers Rapid Watershed Assessment projects came to an end in 2008. We completed resource profiles and assessments which included data about the people, land, and water quality concerns in the watersheds. We met with communities and environmental professionals across the EUP to develop strategies to address those concerns. The reports, which are available online at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rwa.html, will be a tool for the District to pursue projects to implement water quality restoration/protection in the future.

Looking into the future of water quality protection, we worked with several partners to develop and submit a proposal for a watershed planning project for the Munuscong River watershed. If funded, District staff with volunteers will investigate water quality concerns, land use, and other water quality influences in the Munuscong River watershed and develop a watershed management plan. That plan will be a recipe of activities to protect and restore the Munuscong River watershed for future generations.

Again, with all of our projects, we welcome your participation. Please contact the project manager, Pat Carr at 484-3031 or pat.carr@macd.org.



Chippewa/ East Mackinac Conservation District 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

District Celebrates 60 Years

Soil Conservation Districts were established nationally by the 1937 Soil Conservation District Law (Public Act 297). Efforts to start a district in Chippewa County began in 1948. Following are notes from the first annual report of 1949.

"At the annual Agricultural Planning meeting, interest was shown in establishing a District. Mr. H.R. Heathman of the Soil Conservation Service met with the committee and explained the nature of the work of the Districts and the Service. Planning committee members favored the formation a District and agreed to present the idea to the Granges of the county for their approval and action. At the annual Grange meeting, it was voted that organization of a District should be a project for the county's ten granges in 1949. During February, Mr. Leonard Braamse, Extension Conservationist from Michigan State College, met with eight of the Granges to explain the work of the Districts. Committees were appointed to make up an executive committee for the county. These committees circulated petitions for a hearing with the State Soil Conservation Committee and for nominations for directors.

The public hearing with the committee was held on April 26, 1949. State Committee members came from Lansing by plane. A complimentary luncheon was served by the Sault Ste Marie Chamber of Commerce. Over a hundred farmers attended the hearing which was held in the courtroom at the county seat. The hearing was in favor of the organization of the district and the State Committee set the date of May 23, 1949 for a Referendum on the establishment of a District.

Mr. William Dickison of Rudyard was selected to act as the polling superintendent. Polling places were open at the regular voting places in the agricultural townships of Bruce, Soo, Dafer, Rudyard, Pickford, and Brimley. A total of 203 ballots were cast of which 201 favored the creation of the District."

The directors elected and appointed that day are listed below along with all other past and present directors. Our thanks to all who helped make this organization what it is today.

Clyde Ball*	1949-1952	Don Dickenson*	1969-1981	Forbes McDonald	1996-
Willard MacInnis	1949-1955	Stanley Atkinson	1972-1978	Brent Cottle	1996-1998
Sidney Hungerford*	1949-1957	Bill Laubrends	1978-1984	Ken LaJoie	1994-2000
Clarence Green*	1949-1960	Earl Ward	1979-1981	Sheri Laaksonen	1996-1997
Toivo Salo*	1949-1958	Wendell Douglas	1981-1981	Bob Fisher	1997-1997
Leslie Atkins*	1953-1961	Jerry Campbell	1980-1983	Bob Wiles	1997-1997
Wilfred Nayback*	1955-1961	Dave Love	1981-1996	Mary Kostecki	1998-1999
Palmer Wallbom	1957-1963	Randy Dewitt*	1981-1982	Robert Uhrig	1998-2000
Clifford Postma	1958-1967	Robert Folkersma	1982-1985	Beckie Priehs	1999-2007
Elliott Cottle	1960-1966	Keith Schmidt*	1983-1986	Don Thompson	2000-2004
Yalmer Nivala	1961-1964		& 1991-1996	Joyce Belonga	2000-2003
Carl Eagle	1962-1965	Randy Turner	1984-1987	Wendy Wagoner	2003-2004
Bryce Nesseth	1963-1972	Eric Wallis	1985-1991	Orville Kabat	2004-
Vern McDowell*	1964-1991	Melvin VanLuven	1987-1993	Richard Serfass	2004-
Harold McCord	1965-1967	Jane Bishop	1991-1995	Tina Love	2004-
Nick Deno	1966-1969	Kenneth Ross	1991-1993	Tom Allan	2008-
Dave Folkersma	1967-1979	Dan Rogers	1993-1995		
Herman Campbell	1967-1980	Warren Cameron	1993-2004	*deceased	

Staff

Dustine King- Administrator
Pat Carr- Project Manager
Wendy Wagoner- Education Coordinator
Johanna Nugent- Civil Engineer
Hank Lotoszinski- Watershed Technician
Corey Jerome - Administrative Assistant

USDA- Natural Resource Conservation Service

Scott Hughey- District Conservationist
Will Bomier- Soil Conservationist
Christine Perreault Groundwater Technician- LSSU