

## **Environmentalist of the Year – Agriculture:**

### **Amy & Brian Tennis** New Mission

In addition to running an organic farm, Brian & Amy Tennis have been on the leading edge in our area to establish hops as a viable agricultural product. The Tennis's are founding members of the Michigan Hop Alliance, and is currently one of the few hop yards in Michigan providing organic hops to the craft brewing industry. In addition, Amy has been a long serving board member of our beloved Oryana Natural Food Co-op.

### **Dan Busby** State of Michigan - Dept. of Agriculture

Dan works for the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture in the Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program, also known as MAEAP; assuring that farming takes place in an environmentally friendly way. Working with technicians through the local Conservation District, farmers endeavor to become a "Verified Farm" through this program. Dan started working at the Grand Traverse Conservation District as a technician in 2000 and in 2012 he was offered his present position with the State. Now he oversees technicians in 14-counties. Dan likes knowing that when verified, these farms are operating with the knowledge that they are helping to improve the environment around them.

### **McGough's**

Since its establishment around 1890, McGough's has undergone many changes, evolving to meet the needs of the ever-changing face of our region. While they still proudly serve Northern Michigan's organic agricultural and farm community, they also offer a variety of products and services for the homeowner. Pet and wild bird supplies, customized fertilization programs for turf grass, and products to establish and maintain natural areas, to name just a few.

### **Shelley Youngman** Transition Cadillac **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Shelley started the Transition Town movement in Cadillac over four years ago. The foundation of the Transition movement is to lessen the carbon imprint of our towns and cities and to build a sustainable agriculture that focuses on land use management for producing organically grown foods. The organization has grown in popularity in the Cadillac area. The first year, they launched the 100 YARDen project and succeeded in signing up 100 residents for the home garden commitment and last year the challenge grew to over 200 Homes and community gardens. The Transition group also revived our Earth Day Celebration. Shelley and the other group volunteers have created a very successful movement in Cadillac regional community.

## **Environmentalist of the Year – Business:**

### **Andy Humphrey** Eco Mowers

Remember the manual push mower your grandfather used? This one's better. Eco Mowers is leading the eco-friendly push reel style lawn mower movement, making it easy and enjoyable

for any individual to eliminate their climate impact and transform lawn mowing to a clean, quiet, more enjoyable experience.

**Angela Mackie** By the Light of Day

By the Light of Day farm is Michigan's only certified Demeter Biodynamic farm... Biodynamic farming methods defined by Dr. Rudolf Steiner creating incredibly positive results in soil vitality, and in the quality and quantity of yields. Biodynamic's is a holistic, sustainable form of agriculture that dates all the way back to the 1920's. It takes into account everything from the cycles of the moon and stars to the soil, plants, animals and people, with the ultimate goal of making each garden or farm a healthy self-sustaining ecosystem.

**Carter Schmidt** Carter's Composting

Carter Schmidt is 11 years old. He began in April 2012 along with his younger brother Jamison and parents Ty and Johanna as a 100% bike powered kitchen scrap pickup service that has evolved rapidly to include many related activities, all in the interest of promoting their mission: "building by making composting super easy for our TC neighbors". He has assisted over 100 neighbors in reducing waste, picks up 40 buckets per week of food scraps, between 2012-11/13 has diverted approx. 15 tons of food waste from area landfills. Add compost friendly business program, 12 to date. and graduated 13 members to their own backyard pile as part of the Sustained Community Compost Project. Received the 2013 "Take It Back" recycling award. He will be doing composting demos at the Garden Walk in TC this July to help educate even more of us on this important task.

**Dawn Campbell** Boutique a la vie

This boutique features women's clothing responsibly made by local artisans. Dawn's shop markets unique women's clothing with a graceful, urban feel, from every day to special occasion. They buy many US made lines and love and support local designers.

**Deb Hepner & Hannah Halleck** Pretty Stinkin' Green

They recycle reuse and refashion fabrics into funky new garments. Their products include skirts, tops, and scarves and more, all made of recycled fabrics. They outfit children and adults.

**Eric Patterson and Jennifer Blakeslee** The Cooks House

Local sustainable cuisine skillfully prepared and served in Traverse City, in the heart of Northern Michigan wine and dine country.

**Erick Takayama** Grand Traverse Organic

Erick Takayama founded Grand Traverse Organic (GTO) in 1996 with an architectural design and customer service background. He believes that beautiful, creative landscapes can work in harmony with his client's homes, improve their quality of life, and protect the natural resources that make the Grand Traverse Bay region special. Through the design process, GTO collaborates with clients to form and achieve their vision while emphasizing low maintenance designs. By integrating water conservation techniques, native plants and edible landscapes they increase

the beauty, functionality and value of your property. They also work with existing landscapes where change is desired or problems have developed.

**Evan Smith** Cherry Capital Foods

Cherry Capital Foods is primarily a food distributor, helping our customers and our farmers figure out how to source local food and how to provide local food to the marketplace. Often times they help customers find specific Michigan products and also help producers find unique customers. They help our customers educate their guests and shoppers about which farms they are buying from.

**Jason Smiley and Ryan MacManus** OM Café

Colleen Smiley, mom of two, started the Om Café 25 years ago with the simple motivation of love for people and food. She was a pioneer of her time in a meat and potato country, waging a war of vegetables against meat, antibiotics, growth hormones and processed food. She and the Om Café have always celebrated organic food and the heroism of local farmers. Colleen's eldest son Jason stopped home for a visit from his travels and saw the same customers at the Om from when he was bussing tables twenty-five years ago. A year later, Jason partnered with his best friend, Ryan MacManus, to fulfill their dream of bringing the Om Café to another great community, Traverse City.

**Jeanine Rubert** Pine Hill Nursery and Landscaping

Pine Hill Nursery & Landscaping and Pine Hill Village Gardens are local, independent, family-owned and operated businesses serving northwest Michigan. Ralph and Sandy Naples and Jeanine Rubert and their friendly and knowledgeable staffs have been helping area homeowners enjoy the pleasure and beauty of successful gardening and landscapes for over 30 years.

**Jim Balamucki** Earth Friendly Lawn Care

Jim Balamucki is the owner and operator of Earth Friendly Lawn Care. He has over 25 years of professional experience in the turf grass industry and has a degree in turf grass management from Michigan State University. Remember you are not just hiring another lawn care company. You are hiring a professional Agronomist to care for your lawn that is State Certified, licensed & Insured.

**Jim Barnes** ECO Building Products

Using energy-efficient, natural and resource-responsible green building materials and green building systems in your building is not only sustainable but financially sensible. Considering monetary, social and environmental costs, it only makes sense to select green building materials for your next (green) building project. When measuring return on investment, Eco-Building Products' selection of green products and green materials out-performs comparable products.

**Kathy and Timothy Young** Food for Thought

Tim's latest campaign is taking on the theft of their trademark, "Food for Thought," by the

Huffington Post and Chipotle In addition to creating exciting products from the farms and forest of northern Michigan, Young has a long history of humanitarian activism on a range of issues, including farmland preservation both here and abroad. A past President of the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council and Vice Chair of the Michigan Land Use Institute; he is currently President of the Benzie County Chamber of Commerce, board member of the Northwestern Michigan College Foundation, and On The Ground. Passionate about Fair Trade, Timothy was a founding board member of the Domestic Fair Trade Association.

**Libby and Michael Robold** Green Canopy

Earth friendly clothing and goods for an eco-conscious lifestyle, Green Canopy host local artists along with a large selection of eco-friendly lifestyle and Yoga apparel and other accessories. At the Green Canopy, the philosophy of balance transcends into all aspects – even in the clothing business. Located in the Village of the Grand Traverse Commons, the Green Canopy offers organic, natural and fair trade yoga clothing, along with a variety of yoga products that promote health and well-being

**Lynn Rodenroth** Great Lakes Bath and Body

This shop specializes in Personal Care, Bath, and Body Products that enlighten the senses and nurture good health. Their products contain simple ingredients that can be found in nature. They do believe in simple formulas and using more plant derived ingredients when possible. Great Lakes Bath and Body are known for their soaps, which are entirely handmade in small batches.

**Marty Lagina** Heritage Sustainable Energy

Heritage Sustainable Energy, LLC was formed in 2004 to pursue the development of renewable energy facilities, primarily wind energy. Heritage is organized for the purpose of developing, operating, maintaining and owning utility-scale wind energy projects in the State of Michigan. With 88 MW in operation at our Stoney Corners and Garden Wind Farms, Heritage has successfully developed a series of wind farm projects in Michigan, and continues to develop Michigan-based projects building on that success. Since its inception, Heritage has developed a strong positive reputation with landowners, utility companies, contractors, local community residents and all branches of government, working to produce the most cost-effective renewable energy for their customers.

**Michael and Libby Robold** Yoga for Health

Michael and Libby and their team have created a business based on Yoga Practices and Principles that promote lifestyle education, health and holistic practices that support living fully and consciously. They offer the area's largest selection of options for the study and use of Yoga and Tai Chi. Their Goal is to revitalize their student's bodies and minds to better cope with Life's Challenges. As their motto states "They care about the health of the individual as well as the planet. What is good for the Earth is good for the Body."

**Nathan Griswold** Inhabitect, LLC

Mr. Griswold has worked for over 10 years in the green roof industry maximizing the use of this

technology to offset the burden put on our regions infrastructure. As a North American Green Roof Policy Educator he has developed programs to help decision makers create policy that supports green infrastructure that can provide environmental, ecological and social benefits to last a 100 years or more.

#### **Oryana Natural Foods Market**

The guiding force behind all of our product purchasing decisions is taken directly from their Mission Statement which in part, states, "...to provide high quality food produced in ecologically sound ways at fair value to member owners and the community." From their beginnings Oryana has made conscious choices about the products they carry establishing a level of trust and customer satisfaction along the way. Their goal is to maintain that trust while at the same time balancing the many factors involved in making purchasing decisions.

#### **Paul and Amanda Danielson The Franklin**

This new restaurant will be housed in the new LEED certified building opening in May of this year at the corner of Cass and Front. The restaurant will feature Chefs Myles Anton and Gabe Rodriguez. This restaurant will be state of the art using refrigerant heat recovery, solar thermal generation, ultra efficient boilers, and other innovations. In addition to state-of-the art brick, steel & glass construction, the restaurant will put a 120-year-old back bar back into service that has been resting in a barn in Leelanau County since the 1980s and feature a common table like the one at Stella made from a massive cottonwood trunk. With a spacious, outdoor patio and a smaller indoor dining area on the second floor, the restaurant will seat close to 250 people in good weather and offer an amazing place to enjoy downtown's energy.

#### **Andy Gayle and Rick Chelotti Michigan Mattress Recyclers**

As a mattress retailer, Rick Chelotti saw a need to keep old mattresses and box springs out of the waste stream. His company began by recycling the mattresses they picked up from their customers. While reclaiming the steel was easy enough due to the local scrap metal yard being nearby, they had to research what to do with the other materials. In doing so, not only did it make economic sense at the retail level to recycle, it made environmental sense on a more superior scale. It was then that they made the decision to do everything they could to keep as many mattresses out of our local landfills as they could. Michigan Mattress Recyclers was formed in 2011 out of that desire along with the hope to stimulate our state's economy during these trying times. Michigan Mattress was recently purchased in March of this year by Bay Area Recycling for Charity.

#### **Robyn M. Sadowski 27 Stitches**

Experience a shop where unique handbags, wallets, clutches, headbands, scarves, hats, and sew much more are handcrafted. Come in and watch their owner sew you your very own custom bag. "27 Stitches" are dedicated to greening up our planet. Their customers feel wonderful about the products they purchase because it supports the local economy and the environment. The designs are all unique; patterns are drawn to suit a specific item although it almost always changes before it becomes a finished product. No two items are exactly the

same. They incorporate a mix of salvaged material, organic threads, and vintage to make each “27” product unique.

### **Sarah Jane** By Candlelight

Traditional Amish furniture made in Michigan and the Great Lakes region. In the Amish communities of the United States, furniture making is still a craft and a way of life. Created by hands that have been trained to love the land, see hard work as art, and dedicate themselves to simple quality. Their fine Amish home furnishings are constructed out of materials only a healthy environment can produce. They are beautifully and artistically built from natural materials of the earth and last for generations. With hand-crafted Amish furniture, you can be sure you are getting a product that is not only beautiful, but also safer for you, your family and the environment. For over 18 years, they have built a reputation on values of consistent quality, caring service, and lasting relationships.

### **Steve Tongue** Vice President for Facilities, Munson Medical Center **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Munson Medical Center (MMC) has been working with local groups for the past few years to restore sections of Kids Creek that run through their campus on the west side of Traverse City. Working with The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (TWC) and the Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD) they have already established more than 800 feet of vegetative buffer along the creek on 6th Street and Elmwood Ave, known as the “Healing Garden.” As the hospital embarked on the development of their new Cancer Center they chose a more environmentally friendly path, and we applaud them for it. The new channel was opened in October 2013 and has established a natural floodplain for the creek in this area, along with restoring natural meanders, riffles, and pools; turning drainage tube into a beautiful, natural trout stream.

### **Steven Fernand and Family** Fernand Footwear

Your feet have a unique shape. As your personal shoemakers Fernand cuts leather and soles, by hand, to fit each of your feet. When you walk on a sole that fits your feet, they have room to spread with each step. Fernand believes that the healthiest feet in the world walk barefoot, and the closer they get to a barefoot feel, the better for you. They use only the best materials made in America; Vibram® and Biltrite® outsole and midsole; moldable vegetable-tanned full grain leather insoles; water-resistant oil-tanned 6/7oz. top-grain cowhide uppers; solid brass hardware and rivets. They use simple, effective designs and constructions, with minimal seams and continuous straps that stay together, stay on, and stay with you.

### **Steven Smiley** Heron Wind Manufacturing

Heron Wind Manufacturing, LLC, is a Michigan-based wind turbine technology and project development company focusing on small-scale, community wind projects. Heron Wind calls the historic Grand Traverse Commons on the west side of Traverse City its home.

### **Tim Pulliam and Steve Morse** KEEN Technical Solutions

When mechanical contractors Tim Pulliam and Steve Morse first started teaching classes on renewable energy and energy efficiency in Traverse City more than a decade ago, they got to

thinking: How could they help people save money and live lighter on the planet? From that seed of an idea, they launched Keen Technical Solutions, specializing in energy conservation strategies. These days, Keen is recognized as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the nation, and its newest project is equally impressive: a completely “green” building on one of the most coveted corners in downtown Traverse City.

#### **Tina Beatty** Eco Lunch Gear

Being conscious of our environment they looked for ways to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Sure they recycle but they were finding a lot of plastic baggies filled the trash due to lunches - something needed to change. Being a lifelong artist she designs a reusable sandwich wrap and snack bag. This prompted her to start Eco Lunch Gear in 2008 to offer a more environmentally friendly option for you. All of their products are locally made here in Northern Michigan by a great group of talented & fun women. They love making quality products that you will enjoy using while saving money & the environment!

#### **Dayna Valpey** Scrap TC

SCRAP TC is a project of SCRAP, a 501©3 non-profit. Our mission is to inspire creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable materials to the community. Scrap was founded by teachers who couldn't bear to throw away good art materials and supplies left over from school projects. Scrap also helps to inspire and teach people what to do with these funky items through workshops, parties, and outreach events. Donors are eligible for a tax deduction for the fair market value of the items they donate and peace of mind that usable materials are kept from entering the landfill.

#### **Tom Menzel** Bay Area Transportation Authority

BATA is the first LEED Certified (Gold Certification) Building in Traverse City to complement BATA organization's focus as a community environmental leader. BATA also has a fleet of bio-diesel powered buses.

#### **Yana Dee** Independent Clothing Designer

Yana Dee creates her wonderful organic clothing line out of her studio in Traverse City Michigan. Her women's clothing pieces, all handmade and one-of-a-kind, are made from salvaged leather, burlap coffee bags and hand dyed hemp and silk. Many of her designs are available to custom order in various sizes and colors.

#### **Environmentalist of the Year – Education through Music:**

##### **Seth Bernard** Earthworks Music **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Seth (with his wife May) plays all kinds of benefits for environmental issues and their shows always include a 'monolog' of current information and attention to environmental issues in a gentle 'non-aggressive' style.

### **Environmentalist of the Year – Educator:**

#### **Angela Stricker** TCAPS Montessori

Angela Stricker is a 1<sup>st</sup> to 3rd grade teacher at TCAPS Montessori. She does an amazing job of teaching the students about the environment and why they should protect it. She also works with the Grand Traverse Watershed Council. Mrs. Stricker takes her class on a walk every week to explore the environment, studying the watershed around Traverse City. Her students can identify many invasive species and understand why they cause problems in our ecosystem. She inspires all of her students to learn more about the environment and more importantly to love our Earth!

#### **Thomas Czarny (AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Keeping a group of exhausted 16-year-olds awake, let alone inspired, at 8am is a challenge. However, sleeping through Mr. Czarny's loud voice booming with passion for Mother Nature would be a challenge for any student. His extensive knowledge about Environmental Biology coupled with his humor and genuine enthusiasm for the planet makes AP Biology one of the most memorable and valuable classes at our high school. Each day, he addresses a current event related to the environment, expressing how humans have impacted Earth over time and relates it back to the curriculum. His AP Biology has encouraged me to walk softly on the Earth and continually learn more about it. His lessons include wandering around the local woods, taking a trip to a local beach, and watching numerous documentaries and videos. He is always quick to point out the impacts of our daily lives on the environment, but does so in a way that encourages change without demanding it. Overall, he is an extraordinary biology teacher as well as a strong environmental advocate.

### **Environmentalist of the Year – General:**

#### **Bill Latka, Kelly Lively, Jim Lively, Anne Shoup...** Oil & Water Don't Mix Rally

Last summer, a core group of a dozen local activists with TC350 organized a rally to raise awareness of the aging oil pipeline running through the Straits of Mackinac and call for action on climate change. They dreamed big and made it happen. They invited and got great speakers - including Bill McKibben - and inspiring musicians. They organized buses from around the state, and were able to draw 500 people up to the Mackinac Bridge from as far away as Grand Rapids, Detroit, Chicago, and Milwaukee. This rally significantly helped elevate awareness and action about the risks posed by oil pipelines. Our U.S. Senators are now starting to take action and they are getting national and international media attention about the pipelines that, until recently, hardly anyone knew about.

#### **FLOW** Jim Olson and Liz Kirkwood

Jim Olson, Bd. Chair, and Liz Kirkwood, Exe. Director, provide education and policy info on matters relevant to the protection of our great lakes, this year providing information to

communities all across Michigan, including the ramifications and impact of fracking and what communities can do to address this issue.

**Julie Clark** TART Trails, Inc. **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

TART Trails, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that formed in 1998 when four individual trail groups in the Traverse City area united to create a stronger force for recreation and alternative transportation in northwest Michigan. TART Trails is dedicated to providing recreation and transportation opportunities through preserving open space corridors, building trails and advocating for active living and outdoor recreation. Their work includes negotiating easements, hosting annual events that promote healthy lifestyles, and defending cyclist and pedestrian interests. Led by 5 staff and 14 volunteer board members, TART Trails' mission is to enrich the Traverse area by providing a network of trails, bikeways and pedestrian ways; and encouraging their use.

**Norm Fred** Boardman River Clean Sweep

Retired dentist Norm Fred has organized an annual cleanup of the Boardman River since 2004. Usually held the first Saturday of June, this cleanup has removed large amounts of trash over the past nine years. Norm has recruited many paddlers from the Traverse Area Paddle Club, Kingsley High School Outdoor Adventure Club, US Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, and many of his friends to clean up the river they all love. He has solicited many sponsors for a kayak raffle that helps in this cleanup. He established a nonprofit 501©3, "Boardman River Clean Sweep" to fund the Boardman River cleanups. In the fall of 2012 the Boardman River was flooded during the dam removal project. Norm sprang into action to see how his organization could help the river recover. He paddled the cold and muddy river several times that fall to identify areas of debris using GPS coordinates. During the spring and summer of 2013 Norm and Boardman River Clean Sweep worked and collaborated with Grand Traverse Conservation District (Steve Largent), Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the dam removal company, Traverse Area Paddle Club and Boardman River riparian's to remove and dispose of tons of debris.

**Peggy Case** Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation and the Committee to Ban Fracking  
Peggy doesn't just talk the talk, she lives it. Her example of self-sufficiency in growing her own food, and getting off the electric grid are just 2 examples. She has also worked for years on the local Bioneers conference, and is now involved in the anti-fracking campaign.

**Environmentalist of the Year – Grass Roots Group:**

**Angeline Antoine (OzhaashkweBiik) and Jesse Dittmer (Waawiyekamig)** Idle No More Michigan

This two exemplify the next generation of Indigenous Action on issues of clean air, fresh water, and lands. They bring information awareness and advocacy to Indigenous peoples and allies on environmental issues that affect all communities with a focus on Treaty Rights and Issues at the

heart of the Idle No More Movement. They have organized hip hop music and art events, film screenings, discussions on these critical issues facing Indigenous Peoples and sharing those Indigenous views with a broad and increasing audience of allies. Their grass roots actions have engaged a younger demographic on issues like, Idle No More, the Enbridge Oil Pipeline under the Mackinac Bridge, the Michigan Wolf Hunt, opposition to Tar Sand Transportation in the Great Lakes, Anti Fracking, Food Sovereignty and Self-sufficiency. Their work has been essential in informing, bringing awareness and advocating for positive change at the nexus of environmental, social and economic issues in Tribal Communities on Reservations and within Urban Indian Communities and with Allies.

**Aubrey Ann Parker and Jeffery Stratton** Benzie Solar Initiative

Jeffery is a founder of the Benzie Solar Initiative, as well as one of the leading installers of home scaled wind and solar energy generation equipment in our region. He also lives off-grid himself.

**Brad and Amanda Kik** Institute for Sustainable Art & Design

ISLAND is a non-profit arts and ecology center dedicated to connecting people with nature, art and community. ISLAND helps people become native to place by:

- supporting artists — visionaries, conceptual explorers and compelling communicators — with dedicated time, space and resources to create new work;
- restoring the old and developing the new skills and traditions of community self-reliance;
- creating and sharing a broad collection of tools for ecological living.

**Cherry Capital Cycling Club**

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club (CCCC) is comprised of over 500 members of all ages and abilities – from beginner to racing level. Our events calendar is jam-packed with road rides, mountain bike rides, alternative transportation activities, plus fixed gear and Alley Cat rides. Non-members are invited to share several rides with us before joining. Vacationers are welcome. The Cherry Capital Cycling Club encourage everyone to ride together for the camaraderie that cycling provides and for the environmental benefit of cycling.

**Doug & Ann McInnis** Northport Energy Action Task Force

The village of Northport already has a portfolio of renewable energy, and energy efficiency projects. It will soon host the first completely solar-powered golf course. More solar is their goal. Northport is also a “complete streets” community authorizing use of electric golf carts on city streets, and made bicycling and walking safer.

**Elizabeth Dell and Maura Brennan** Citizens Climate Lobby **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is relatively new environmental organization (in Northern Michigan, the oldest chapter in the state) was brought to the area by Maura Brennan who chairs the group with Elizabeth Dell. “Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is an international grassroots environmental group that trains and supports volunteers to build relationships with their Members of Congress in order to influence climate policy. Elizabeth Dell has been a life-long

practicing environmentalist and is a key member in the building of the Northern Michigan Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby at an exponential rate. CCL is action focused with specific goals set for each chapter. This chapter has held lobby meetings with Representative Benishek and Senators Levin and Stabenow, attended Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. last June, wrote op-eds & letters to the editor in northern Michigan papers. In September 2013, organized a speaking tour about CCL in southern Michigan to recruit new members and launch new chapters. As a result, chapters were launched last fall in Midland and Mt. Pleasant and group leaders were identified in Lansing, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids.

**Gary Howe My Wheels Are Turning**

“My Wheels are Turning” was created to explore how and why it is they move and to explore the values that they promote when they make those choices. It’s for people who walk, wheel, use motor vehicles and those who stand by the side of the road. Since its launch in January of 2010, it quickly evolved into a forum that went beyond mere mobility issues. As it turns out, it’s primarily about public space, because our common space is largely claimed by a single use: the automobile. MyWHaT was created to help expand the understanding of how they can fully design, use, and interact with those spaces, and each other, with more equity, inclusiveness and resiliency. And, still drive our automobiles—albeit, hopefully a lot more efficiently than they do now.

**Julia Chambers AFFEW**

Julia is managing director of AFFEW (A Few Friends of the Environment of the World), a group she organized decades ago. Educating about the health connections to our environment, and organizing the yearly Earth Day parade, are just a couple of her passions.

**Julie Pearson**

Julie has initiated a neighborhood effort to inform residents of the environmental and health impacts from the use of toxic chemicals on lawns and gardens in the city. She has designed signs to place on lawns that are safe for children and animals. She is also working with others to raise awareness of the dangers and engage other neighborhoods to join this effort.

**Maura Brennan Sustainable TC**

Sustainable TC was created to inspire sustainable lifestyle choices in northern Michigan, and lists a large number of resources in a convenient guide to living more sustainably.

**Paul Brady and Jacque Rose**

Paul and Jacque have endlessly researched, compiled, analyzed, and distributed information on the oil and gas wells in Northern Michigan and provided vital facts on fracking at these wells. They truly demonstrate that if the facts are made public, the people will care!

**Royce Ragland Green Elk Rapids Day**

Royce is a founding member of the Green ER Days committee, a group of people dedicated to bringing environmental awareness and education to the Village of Elk Rapids. Their one-day event has become an almost two-week event that includes the schools, individuals, and

businesses of Elk Rapids. There are activities, lectures, movies - literally something for everyone so that they can help educate the most people about being good stewards of the environment. Royce is an active member of this group, helping to grow Green ER Days.

#### **Environmentalist of the Year – Journalism and Communications:**

##### **Glenn Puit** Traverse City Record Eagle **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Glenn continues to provide environmental investigative reporting to the community. This year his in-depth reporting on the cyanide found in the ground waters at the Hotel Indigo site in Traverse City were illuminating and extensive. He is also accessible and quick to respond.

#### **Environmentalist of the Year – Professional:**

##### **Dennis Lutes and Ryan McCoon** Habitat for Humanity

Everything about this new development under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity will be cutting edge green built design. By building homes that are highly energy-efficient, that have excellent indoor air quality, and follow universal design principles, each family can enjoy a lifetime of affordability, cleaner indoor air, and mobility. In building to earth-friendly, LEED certification standards homeowners can decrease their annual energy costs by \$1,000-\$1,500 .

##### **Lisa Danto** American Lung Association Community Mental Health Tobacco Grant **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Lisa has worked tirelessly for years to educate and help protect the environment and all of us from the pollution and addition of tobacco. This nomination is to honor her efforts to rid Traverse City of these effects. Her latest endeavor to ban smoking at the Cherry Festival has been endorsed. No more smoking in the Open Space!

##### **Steve Largent** Grand Traverse Conservation District

Steve lives breathes and bleeds the Boardman River. The Dams project is a ground breaking project with National implications, but Steve has been working as a one man conservation organization for that river and this community for over 20 years.

##### **Tim Wharton** EcoLogic Solutions

For over 4 years Tim's passion for the environment, being green and constantly striving to make this world a better place for everyone on the planet has proven itself with not only the company but the people he meets and works with on a daily basis. Starting out in Traverse City his franchise has expanded all over the Great Lakes Region, including Grand Rapids, Detroit, Illinois, Chicago, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, and even into Canada. Major colleges, school systems, resorts like Crystal Mountain and hundreds of restaurants have all made the Switch to EcoLogic Solutions.

## **Environmentalist of the Year – Public Service or Public Office:**

### **Rob Straebel** City Manager City of Charlevoix

Over the past several years, the City of Charlevoix has taken a strong leadership role in environment sustainability including natural resource conservation and energy efficiency measures. These efforts have resulted in reductions in the City's carbon footprint while assisting to preserve and protect the area's natural resources. Because of our environmental successes, the City is one of eleven Michigan municipalities recently awarded a Gold Certificate through the Michigan Municipal League's Green Communities Challenge for exemplary action in environmental leadership. Some of the City's environmental efforts include the: Development of the Lake to Lake Multi-Use Trail to be constructed in 2014; adoption of an "Idle-Free" policy for all City vehicles; major efficiency upgrades to the City's HVAC and lighting systems reducing carbon emissions; transitioning to LED lighting for street lights and seasonal decorations; purchase electricity generated by methane gas for City's electric utility; participation in Smart Commute Charlevoix; installation of electric car charging station and City use of electric vehicles; annual vehicle efficiency audits promoting higher fuel efficiency targets on all government vehicles; promotion and management of local Farmer's Market; offer City-owned garden plots to residents promoting local agriculture; various storm water management initiatives including construction of rain gardens and identification of sources of non-point pollution; Clean Marina status for municipal marina; and certification as a Tree City USA, anticipating to plant over 70 trees in 2014.

### **Wade Hamilton** Department of Natural Resources

Wade Hamilton is a First Lieutenant with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division. His commitment to Natural Resource Protection is far reaching but stems from his office which is located right here in Traverse City. F/Lt. Hamilton works each and every day supporting the mission of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division which is to protect Michigan's natural resources and the environment, and the health and safety of the public through effective law enforcement and education. Not only is he committed to the conservation, protection and management of the State's natural resources for current generations but for future generations as well. He is a leader in holistic natural resource management and is responsive and proactive in an ever-changing environment.

### **Wally Delamater** Village Manager, Village of Suttons Bay **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Mr. Delamater has been an integral force for positive improvements to the quality of life in Suttons Bay and its efforts to maintain its charm as a small town. Wally's vision centered on village infrastructure but also on protecting water quality in Suttons Bay. Last autumn work was completed on a large-scale storm water reduction project in conjunction with The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, to reduce storm water impacts on public health. Wally's willingness to work with The Watershed Center was a key factor in securing grant funding from the EPA for the work. His push to get the project done, even though it would disrupt village life during the

busy summer season was unparalleled. There are now 15 rain gardens throughout the village and more than 3,600 feet of underground infiltration trenches under alleys and Front Street filtering storm water through natural processes, preventing it from reaching the Bay. Because of his desire to work with partners such as The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and TART Trails, over \$1.5 million of grant funding was awarded to reduce harmful storm water runoff to the Bay and protect public health, and promote a more walkable, bikeable community with the extension of the TART Trail to Dumas Road. The trail connects residents with parks and downtown, providing a convenient way for residents and visitors to make their way throughout the Village without a car.

### **Environmentalist of the Year – Student:**

#### **Mary O’Neil and Kevin Summers** Students Making a Climate Correction

Mary and Kevin have worked with a group of high school students throughout the area to encourage them to work within their schools and communities to increase awareness about issues surrounding climate change. On April 25th, they will be hosting the “Battle of the Bands” encouraging young people throughout the area to compete musically and become engaged in climate issues.

#### **Max Werner (AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Max is an amazing student! He has created his own business! Each week, he collects his neighbor’s compost and places it in his compost bin. He will use the soil generated in his garden or possibly will sell it. What a cool idea!

### **Environmentalist of the Year – Volunteer:**

#### **Don Cunkle** Recycle a Bicycle (AWARD RECIPIENT)

Don Cunkle is the founder and tireless program coordinator of Recycle-A-Bicycle. Since the program’s beginning in 2007, Don has collected, repaired and distributed more than 800 bicycles throughout the community; developing partnerships with Goodwill, Cherry Capital Cycling Club, Father Fred, Child & Family Services, Women’s Resource Center and other community organizations. In June 2011, the program hosted Traverse City’s first bicycle swap as a fundraiser. The event was an overwhelming success and provided new homes to more than 200 used bicycles. Don’s passion and enthusiasm for the program keeps Recycle-A-Bicycle’s wheels in constant motion.

#### **Duane Drake** Three Lakes Association

Duane is a very quiet, self-effacing volunteer who has for a dozen years or more both personally and through the team of volunteers he has assembled seen to it that water quality parameters have been regularly measured in Torch Lake, Clam Lake, and Lake Bellaire. He and his team make weekly measurements throughout the summer season which are reported to the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. He personally takes the collected specimens to the

laboratory to ensure their timely arrival for analysis. He never seems to think he should receive any thanks for his efforts, seeing them as just “the right thing to do.”

**Gary Stauffer** Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

They are pleased to nominate Gary Stauffer for Environmentalist of the Year. Mr. Stauffer has been a dedicated volunteer for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) for over six years. During this time Gary has tried and experienced many activities, allowing him to gain skills and deepen his understanding of conservation work. He has done everything from trail building to representing GTRLC at public functions. Presently, Gary serves as Lead Volunteer Preserve Steward at Maple Bay Farm. Here he has found a home and is doing incredible work bringing vitality to this property and connecting people to the land. He has taken a lead role organizing other volunteers who have been instrumental in stabilizing a historic farm house, restoring a historic sugar shack, maintaining and restoring the farm’s grounds, establishing a Maple Sugaring program and paving the way for a partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Living Art & Natural Design (ISLAND) to establish a farmer residency program.

**Jacque Rose** FAR Watershed and Respect My Planet **(AWARD RECIPIENT)**

Jacque Rose is a watchdog for digging out the facts about the impact of fracking on Michigan’s water and environment. Jacque is third founding member of the website [respectmyplanet.org](http://respectmyplanet.org), and also a major contributor to the website [FARwatershed.com](http://FARwatershed.com) with much valuable information about fracking in Michigan. Jacque is a paralegal who has spent much time researching the facts related to fracking and the oil and gas industry in Michigan. She authors a valuable summary handout “EnCana Water Use” which gives the current proposed and actual water removal. Jacque recently released “Analysis of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality High Volume Hydraulically Fractured Wells Completions and Applications” which is available on [FARwatershed.com](http://FARwatershed.com). Jacque is working hard to educate people about high volume hydraulic fracturing and the consequences and threats related to it. She works tirelessly without pay to speak out for protecting Michigan’s fresh water resources. Unrelenting and totally selfless-dedication. Jacque Rose exemplifies all of the tenants of a successful environmentalist.

**Paula Dreeszen** Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

For over nine years Paula has been a stalwart presence at the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) generously sharing her vast knowledge, skills and time with GTRLC in nearly innumerable ways. Paula is Volunteer Preserve Steward for Arcadia Dunes (GTRLC’s largest preserve), Green Point Dunes, & Upper Herring Lake, is a Volunteer Hike Leader, monitors and removes invasive plant species, helps with property baselines identifying plants & birds, leads bird counts, assists with the Arcadia Dunes grassland habitat improvement, assists with the Arcadia Marsh restoration, assists with trail building, design and maintenance, creates interpretive signage, creates native bird and plant guides, helped develop GTRLC’s volunteer handbook, as well as organizes and leads other volunteers. Paula’s deep and intimate knowledge of the landscapes is so valued she is called upon by our staff to help develop yearly stewardship work plans for Arcadia Dunes and other preserves. Her passion for birding has helped pave the way for partnerships between Benzie Audubon Society, GTRLC, and the

Sleeping Bear Birding Trail which provide all of us with opportunities to connect to our region's natural world. Though a list of Paula's accomplishments and activities is impressive what she means to GTRLC and our region much greater than the sum of these parts.

**The Clarence Kroupa Award:** David Milarch, for over 20 years of fighting climate change by bringing back to life the ancient trees of the forest through cloning, propagating and planting the offspring all over the world.

**The Golden Beaver Award:** Norman Fred, for 10 years of his behind-the-scenes time, energy, and effort to organize and mobilize people to clean up the Boardman River.

**The Golden Bulldozer Award:** None Issued

**The John Nelson Award for Water Stewardship:** FLOW for advocating for the use of the Public Trust Doctrine to protect, preserve and restore our water resources.