

From Tahquamenon to Chequamegon: BRWA Welcomes new Executive Director

After a long vacancy and an intensive search, the Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA) is pleased to announce that Wisconsin native Tony Janisch has been selected as its new executive director. BRWA is excited about Tony's significant experience in communications and education, budgeting, and management skills that he brings to the organization. Tony started his position with BRWA on June 3, 2013.



Tony Janisch

Prior to coming to BRWA, Tony had been living in the Lake Superior Region with his wife and two daughters on the lake's eastern end, and working as the Executive Director for the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Paradise, Michigan. Before moving to the Upper Peninsula, he lived in the Chicago area working as an instructor for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (Custer, WI) and as the Environmental Education

Supervisor for the Forest Preserve District of Will County (Joliet, IL).

Tony has a Masters in Recreation Administration from Aurora University and Bachelors in Natural Resource Management from the UW-Stevens Point. He says his most life-changing experience was thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail with his wife, Tara. "If you ever want to talk backpacking, I'm your man," said Tony.

Tony grew up in southern Wisconsin (Orfordville), and said he's happy to be returning to his home state. Despite an over-cast, cold and snowy May visit to Ashland, Tony said "I am very excited to be moving back to Wisconsin and helping to protect and preserve the waters of the Bad River and the Lake Superior basin."

"I am very proud to be joining the Bad River Watershed Association," he said. "I look forward to meeting the volunteers, members and partners of the BRWA, and working with the Board of Directors in confronting the current issues affecting the watershed and steering the organization into the future."

"We are excited to have Tony joining BRWA to help us make the next 10 years as productive as the last decade has been," said board president Sjana Schanning. Welcome Tony! ♦

Join us for BRWA's Solstice Celebration!

Bring friends and family and join us from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, 2013 at Prentice Park in Ashland, Wis. to mark the summer solstice BRWA-style. We're celebrating with BRWA members, volunteers, and supporters—and having a good ol' time! Your taste buds will delight in great local food including a gourmet international hot dog bar featuring O'Dovero-Flesia Farm hot dogs and gourmet toppings. We'll also feature South Shore Brewery beer and homemade desserts. There will be live music from Papa Squat and the Bumpin' Ugliers, children's activities, a raffle, and more. We'll also present the annual Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award to a deserving BRWA volunteer. Who will it be this year? Join us to find out!

Everyone is welcome. The entrance fee is \$10 per adult, \$5 for children ages 3-12 or \$25 per family (children ages 2 and under are FREE). Current BRWA members will be entered into a raffle for items such as tickets to a Big Top Chautauqua show, a Jeff Peters photo print, a signed Trampled by Turtles poster, a Delta Diner Gift Certificate, clothing items from Patagonia, and more! For more information, please call (715) 682-2003 or email info@badriverwatershed.org. We hope to see you there!



Bug Hunters

Volunteers from the spring 2013 Volunteer Macroinvertebrate Sampling training session on May 18, 2013, enjoying the (rising!) Bad River at Gilman Park in Mellen. Pictured above from left to right: Jim Nevins, Sarah Nevins, Barbara Baldwin, Paul Baldwin, Jayne Högfeldt, Bob Högfeldt, Joel Austin, Valerie Damstra (Citizen Involvement Coordinator), Jay Glase, Jeff Musselman, Bruce Prentice, Bob Traczyk, Jane Thimke, and Cindy Glase.

See the article on page 3 to learn what BRWA monitoring projects have revealed about watershed health in the area around the proposed mine site in the Penokees.

The Potential for Mining Coming Together To Care for our Home Watershed

The potential for a mine in the Penokee Hills at the Southeastern headwaters of our watershed is a topic of conversation around the state, in our neighborhoods, at our dinner tables, and here at the BRWA office.

Board vice president Mike Ryan summed it up well: "We are neutral regarding any industry. We aren't against mining any more than we are against farming. We just don't want cow poop in the rivers."

We also don't want mining companies to place potentially damaging waste rock into streams and wetlands in the Tyler Forks sub-watershed. We are very disappointed in 2013 Wisconsin Act 1, Relating to the Regulation of Ferrous Mining, which took effect in March, because it appears to provide multiple exemptions for mining companies to operate in and around waterways in ways that threaten the health of our watershed.

Wisconsin has a long, proud heritage of strong conservation ethics, and this legislation does not fit our principles. Gaylord Nelson, former Senator, Earth Day founder and sponsor of legislation creating Apostle Islands National Lakeshore said, "Our economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the land we walk on, the air we breathe, and the water we drink." Nelson's words resonate with BRWA and our mission aligns with his sentiment.

State, national, and international interest is focused on our watershed because the water from a potential mine site feeds directly into the Kakagon and Bad River sloughs, and then into Lake Superior.

The Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs, a largely undeveloped wetland complex composed of sloughs, bogs, and coastal lagoons harboring the largest natural wild rice bed on the Great Lakes, are recognized as an International Ramsar site. Ramsar is an intergovernmental treaty that commits to maintain the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance.

Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water in the world, is an irreplaceable resource protected by Canada and the United States. To help us increase local awareness of the issues, BRWA has expanded our collaborative role with groups such as the



Mark Peterson, director of Northland College's Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute and Erin O'Brien, policy director at the Wisconsin Wetlands Association thumb wrestle at the watershed summit, as an exercise to demonstrate the benefits of resource sharing.



BRWA Executive Director Tony Janisch and Matt Hudson, Watershed Program Coordinator for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College, share a laugh at the watershed summit.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Bad River Band, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, and Northland College, among others.

In May, BRWA hosted a summit, bringing together local and statewide organizations to collaborate on protecting the Bad River Watershed. The gathering provided an excellent opportunity to connect dedicated groups and individuals who are working to inform and educate our communities.

"BRWA's summit gathering provided an incredible opportunity to share what we know, learn from others, and identify meaningful opportunities to partner with local leaders to protect and enhance wetland resources," said Erin O'Brien, Policy Director of the Wisconsin Wetland's Association.

"We look forward to working with BRWA and its members," O'Brien added. "We are so pleased to be invited to participate in BRWA's watershed initiatives. With its committed board, talented staff, and clear mission, BRWA is exactly the kind of organization we look to partner with on our efforts to help communities improve local wetland resources."

The potential for a mine in our watershed is the most daunting concern the BRWA has faced in our 11-year history. The best way to move forward with any development is with an informed community, engaged in seeking solutions to

preserve watershed health.

BRWA is good at communicating scientific information in an understandable format to citizens and decision-makers. We will continue to provide clear and accessible information to the public through our website, our newsletter, at meetings and at your request.

People of the Northland are resourceful and determined when it comes to taking care of the place we call home. And although we have many differences, we all share a connection with our home watershed. ♦

Macroinvertebrate and Temperature Monitoring in Streams Near the Potential Penokee Mine – Results of 2012 BRWA Monitoring

Beginning in 2011, BRWA entered into a contractual agreement with the Town of Morse to conduct macroinvertebrate (aquatic bugs) and continuous temperature monitoring in the vicinity of the potential Penokee mine site. The contract was renewed in 2012, and BRWA repeated the monitoring at some locations and expanded the monitoring to new streams.

The purpose of the monitoring was to provide scientific data on stream conditions prior to any potential mining activity. It's impossible to know for sure if mining has affected a stream if you don't have any data on the stream before the mining occurred—you need a before-and-after comparison to document change. It has been (and continues to be) BRWA's hope that our data will be used to help inform objective decision making by all stakeholders in the watershed.

Important reasons for monitoring temperature and macroinvertebrates include:

- Temperature is critical in determining what lives where (for example fish, fish food, algae);
- State classification of streams is based on temperature, and affects management decisions;
- Macroinvertebrates are good indicators of a stream's overall health;
- Macroinvertebrates are well-studied, and their tolerances to pollution and other problems are well-understood;
- Changes in temperature and macroinvertebrates can be tracked to measure ecological changes.

Temperature loggers were deployed at 10 stream sites and macroinvertebrates were sampled at 11 sites (see Table 1).

Temperature was measured hourly from approximately May through September. Macroinvertebrates were collected in spring of 2012. Almost all of the streams sampled for macroinvertebrates scored very good to excellent, with only one ranked as good (Table 1). None were in the categories of fair, fairly poor, poor, or very poor.

Six of eight streams had cool- or cold-water temperature regimes in 2012, which means the streams have suitable temperatures to support trout (Table 2). A previously unmapped tributary of the Tyler Forks had cold temperatures and brook trout were observed at the monitoring site.

While many of us who live and work in the watershed have the sense that our streams are healthy, the data collected by BRWA in 2012 in the vicinity of a potential Penokee Hills mine confirms this sense. Many of the monitored streams are in excellent condition and several are coldwater streams suitable for trout. An unnamed tributary to the Tyler Forks was not even on the maps, yet may be an important trout stream.

BRWA is planning to continue temperature monitoring in the Penokees area in 2013, and has hired contractor Cindy Glase to coordinate and oversee the temperature monitoring project. Cindy will also train some volunteers to manage a handful of sites. Volunteers will continue to conduct macroinvertebrate monitoring this spring and fall.

Please contact us at (715) 682-2003 or info@badriverwatershed.org if you are interested in assisting with monitoring or would like to learn more. ◆

River	Location	Temp	Macro	HBI	IBI
Potato	Upson	*	X	E	E
Erickson Cr	Casey Sag Rd	X	X	E	E
Javorsky Cr	Hwy 77		X	VG	E
Rouse Cr	Casey Sag Rd	X			
Tyler Forks	Hwy 77		X	VG	E
Tyler Forks	Caroline Lake Rd	*	X	VG	E
Tyler Forks	Stricker Rd		X	G	E
Unnamed Tyler Forks Trib	FR 703	X			
Bad	Gilman Park	X	X	VG	E
Bad	Caroline Lake Outflow	X			
Ballou Cr	Red House Rd	X	X	VG	E
City Cr	Lake Dr	X	X	E	E
Devils Cr	Opergard Rd		X	VG	E
Opergard Cr	Revai Rd	X	X	E	E

* Temperature logger lost

Table 1. Stream sites monitored for temperature and macroinvertebrates by BRWA in 2012. 'X' indicates whether monitoring took place in 2012. HBI = Hilsenhoff Biotic Index, IBI = Index of Biotic Integrity. Both HBI and IBI are scores that indicate the quality of the stream based on the macroinvertebrates living in the stream. E = excellent, VG = very good, G = good.

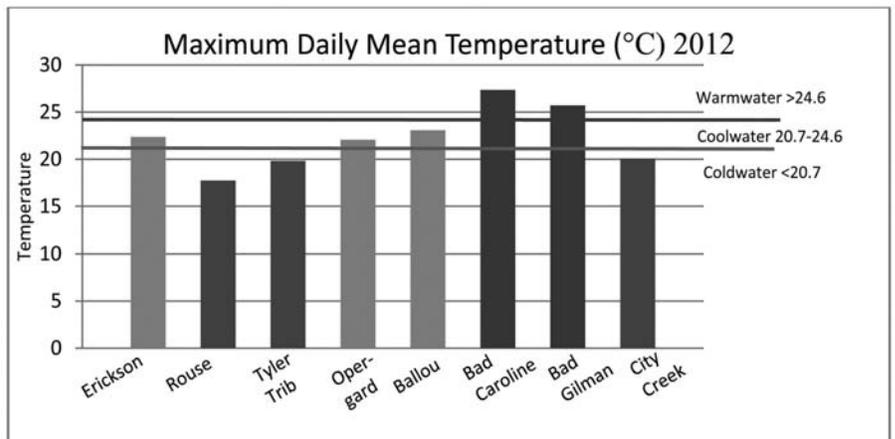


Table 2. The maximum daily mean temperature for streams monitored by BRWA in 2012. The maximum daily mean temperature is the warmest (maximum) average temperature reached in a single day (average of 24 measurements per day, once every hour).

Upcoming Events for Marengo River Watershed Landowners—All are Welcome!

As part of the Marengo River Watershed Partnership, BRWA is reaching out to Marengo River Watershed landowners to provide opportunities to learn more about your watershed and what you can do to improve its health. In June, BRWA will be helping local partners organize two FREE events. If you don't live in the Marengo River watershed but are interested in these topics, please join us! RSVPs are appreciated @ (715) 682-2003 or erika@badriverwatershed.org.. ♦

Landowner Options in Aspen Forests Workshop & Tour

- *Saturday, June 8, 2013 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm*
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland



As a landowner living in Northern Wisconsin, you have several options when considering how to sustainably manage your forested lands. While many properties are being managed for even-aged aspen regeneration, other management options exist depending on your goals. Perhaps you want to manage your stand in a multi-aged arrangement, or for particular forest products, or to provide habitat for certain plants and animals. Join us to learn about alternatives to aspen clear-cutting from local experts Jason Fischbach of UW Extension and Charly Ray of Northern Ecosystems Services.

Fish Populations in the Marengo River Watershed

- *Tuesday, June 11, 2013 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm*
Four Corners Saloon, 30015 County Hwy E in Mason
Dinner begins at 6:00 pm (provided by BRWA, RSVP requested to help with our planning). Presentation begins at 6:45pm

Are you curious about what fish call the Marengo River Watershed home and how their populations are doing? Wisconsin DNR Fish Biologist Lawrence Eslinger will present results of recent fish surveys and discuss how various issues, like sediment, affect fish habitat needs. You'll also be able to learn what you can do on your property to improve fish and wildlife habitat and address natural resource concerns.



Thank You!

Our Volunteers: Tracey Ledder, Joan Elias, Bobbi Rongstad, Eric Nelson, David and Karen Saarinen, Peter and Eileen Freiburger, Bruce Prentice, Steve Baumgarder, Bob Traczyk, Jim Crandall, Heather Palmquist, Ron Nemece, and Michele Heglund. Welcome new volunteers Jim and Sarah Nevins, Jane Thimke, Bob and Jayne Högfelddt, Sara and Matt Hudson, Jay and Cindy Glase, Joel Austin, Jeff Musselman, Paul and Barbara Baldwin, Jake Brown, and Kevin Brewster.

Our Recent Donors and New Members (since 4/1/13): James and Ruth Brennan, Town of Grand View, Dick and Wendy Theide, Jane Hilton, Jim Christopher, Bruce Moore, Jack and Sharon Stewart, Jay and Cindy Glase, Ron Nemece, Joe Cook and the Sparta High School Earth Club, TanaTuronie, and Anonymous.

Special Thank You to: Mellen School for letting us host our volunteer macroinvertebrate training at the school; Eric Nelson for helping solve our hacked website issues; Allison Werner of the River Alliance of Wisconsin for your assistance with planning and facilitating the watershed summit; Town of Ashland supervisor Bob Schutte for sharing information with us at our Spring Culvert Tour; and Jerry Setzke, MaryJo Gingras, Jack Wichita, and Tracey Ledder who recently ended their tenure as water chemistry volunteers—thanks so much for all your work!



BRWA Team

Tony Janisch
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Board of Directors

Sjana Schanning
President
Mike Ryan
Vice-President
Bobbi Rongstad
Treasurer
Pam Roberts
Secretary

At-large board members:

Kevin Brewster
Joan Elias
Tracy Ledder
Kelly McKnight



WHEN YOU CARE FOR THE WATER ~ YOU CARE FOR THE WORLD START AT HOME

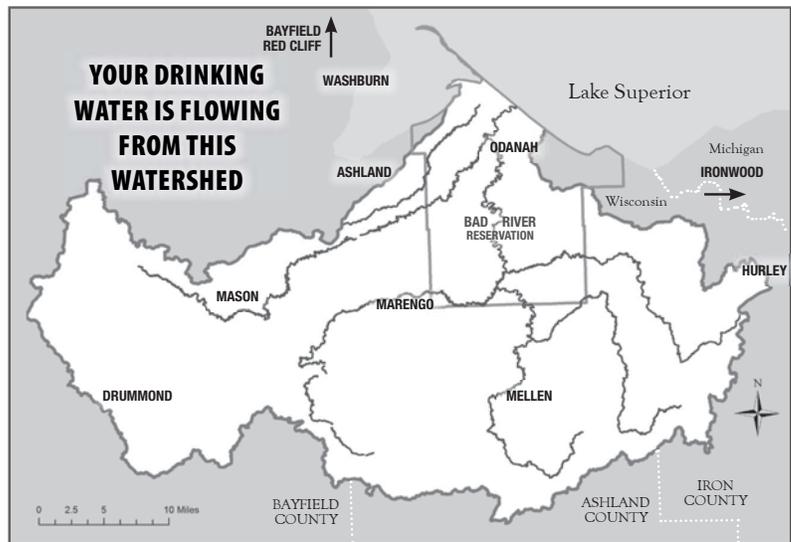
The Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA) is a community organization of people like yourself who enjoy and care for their **home watershed**. Would you like to:

- ❖ Learn more about decisions we all make affecting our land and water?
- ❖ Work with others to gather information and learn more about our streams?
- ❖ Help ensure problem areas in our watershed are identified and practical solutions are implemented?

Then join BRWA today!

A BRWA Membership

- ❖ Implements water quality monitoring
- ❖ Offers landowners solutions to keep polluted runoff out of streams
- ❖ Partners local governments with natural resource professionals to replace culverts and restore fish passage and habitat
- ❖ Keeps citizens informed of possible large-scale land use changes like mining and connects them and local decision makers with sound science, to ensure responsible care of land and water resources



The Bad River Watershed drains over 1,000 square miles within the

Counties of Ashland, Iron, and Bayfield, in Wisconsin. Its major rivers are the Upper Bad; Lower Bad; Tyler Forks; Marengo; Potato; White; and Beartrap Creek - all spawning grounds for lake sturgeon, trout, salmon, and walleye. Headwaters are in the Chequamegon National Forest. The lower portion is within the Bad River Reservation. Bad River empties into Lake Superior at the Kakagon-Bad River Sloughs - the only extensive coastal wild rice wetland in the Great Lakes Basin.

The BRWA envisions a future in which change and development within the watershed grow from a stewardship ethic. With your membership, you join hundreds of others who care for the water that all our lives depend upon.

BRWA MEMBER BENEFITS: Watershed Waves newsletter published quarterly; BRWA bumper sticker; invitations to member-only events and discounts at BRWA events



The Bad River Watershed Association

was formed in 2002, with "the mission to promote a healthy relationship between the people and natural communities of the Bad River Watershed, by involving all citizens in assessing, maintaining, and improving watershed integrity for future generations."

Yes! I want to make a difference and become a BRWA member.

- \$25* \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other (TAX DEDUCTIBLE).

*BRWA could not survive without member generosity; some give financially, some give valuable time, and many give both! To celebrate BOTH kinds of contributions, we extend membership to any supporter who donates \$25 or more per year OR volunteers for four hours or more per year.

- Please keep my donation anonymous.
- I am unable to contribute financially today. Please add me to the list of volunteers.

CHOICES - HOW TO JOIN

ONLINE: www.badriverwatershed.org CALL US at 715-682-2003
USE THIS FORM & MAIL TO: BRWA, P.O. Box 875, Ashland, WI 54806

Name _____
 Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone _____ Check payable to BRWA. Charge: VISA MasterCard
 Card number _____ Exp.date: _____ CVW _____ 3-digit code on back
 I am also interested in being a volunteer.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact BRWA
715-682-2003
www.badriverwatershed.org

See our WISH LIST at www.badriverwatershed.org for other giving opportunities.

PHOTO: Caroline Sadie Ray lives one mile from Lake Superior.
 PHOTO & GRAPHICS: Ros Nelson

Address Service Requested



Summer 2013 Watershed Waves

Get your Watershed Waves via email

If you would prefer to get this newsletter in electronic format, please send a message with that request to: info@badriverwatershed.org



all the news from your

BAD RIVER

WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



FIND US
ON FACE-
BOOK

Where in the Watershed?

Does this scene look familiar to you?

Hint: It's a public location somewhere in the Bad River watershed. If you can identify the place, your name will go into a hat and the winner will be drawn from all correct answers. The winner will receive a special prize from BRWA. Email your answer and contact information to info@badriverwatershed.org by June 30. The winner will be contacted by email or phone and announced on the BRWA Facebook page.

Watch for different locations in future editions of the BRWA newsletter!



Summer's Here: Have you Remembered to Renew Your Membership?

Just a friendly reminder that we have multiple members whose memberships will be expiring as of June 30, 2013. We will be sending renewal notices out soon, but if you'd like to beat us to the punch, you can always renew by filling out the form in the newsletter and mailing with your check, or renewing online via our website. If you have questions about the status of your membership, please call us at (715) 682-2003 or email info@badriverwatershed.org. As always, we sincerely thank you for your support!