

## Who Won *Lake Superior Magazine's* 2012 Achievement Award? **WE DID!**

When we got the email in August from *Lake Superior Magazine* that they would like to write an article about the Bad River Watershed Association and our 10th anniversary, we were already pretty excited. Little did we know they were actually crafting the article because the magazine had chosen BRWA as this year's winner of their annual Achievement Award!

*Lake Superior Magazine* created the annual award in 1994 to recognize groups or individuals that "significantly contribute to the well-being of Lake Superior and its communities." Past recipients include Gaylord Nelson, The Nature Conservancy, and the Lake Superior Binational Forum, among others. We're certainly in good company, indeed!

"For bringing together diverse groups for common goals and working to protect the Bad River and other regional watersheds and ultimately, the Lake Superior Watershed, *Lake Superior Magazine* proudly gives its 2012 Achievement Award to the Bad River Watershed Association," states the magazine in its October-November 2012 issue, which hit the stands on October 1.

"We've been watching the Bad River Watershed Association for a long time, and have admired the work that you do," said Konnie LeMay, editor, when we spoke with her on the phone. "The fact that you can do the work you do and use volunteers in an underserved area to take care of the water is remarkable. We also look for groups that can be a role model for others around the lake. A group like yours fits the bill."

*Lake Superior Magazine* is a regional magazine that focuses on the area around Lake Superior, which includes Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin, usually within 50 to 100 miles of the lakeshore. It is in its 31st year of publishing. The magazine has subscribers in all of the states,



Canadian provinces, and 26 foreign countries.

The BRWA board and staff, past and present, are so excited and honored to receive this award. BRWA would also like to extend thanks and gratitude to our outstanding volunteers that take care of our streams, as well as local citizens that are working every day to maintain our home watershed. ♦



## Tracey Ledder Wins Karen Danielsen Stewardship Award

Advisor, teacher, supporter, volunteer, water monitor, grant writer, coordinator—these are just some of the roles Tracey Ledder has filled in the 10-year history of the Bad River Watershed Association. Her contributions were honored last summer as she was presented with the Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award.

The award was created in 2009 as a way to honor the memory of a founding BRWA board member and dedicated volunteer, Karen Danielsen. Karen was strong voice for the organization, and was involved in BRWA through every opportunity offered—as a field volunteer, committee member, events planner, board member, and board president.

Karen's passion for BRWA and all she did to help move the organization forward will not be forgotten. This award is given annually to a dedicated volunteer who shows the same passion for BRWA as Karen did. Thank you Tracey, and congratulations! ♦

*Tracey with daughter Eleanore received the award at the BRWA summer anniversary party.*

## A Time of Transition: Staff and Board Comings and Goings

By Bob Rice, Board President

Looking back on the last year of my board presidency, it's been a year of milestones. It's been filled with a lot of great work done by BRWA staff members and volunteers. It's been a year that offered lots of celebration, as we looked back on our first 10 years of engaging citizens in the protection of the Bad River Watershed. And, it has been a year of some challenges and transitions as well.



We continue to gather sound data regarding the health of the watershed, and have focused a lot of our water quality monitoring on the collection of data in streams around the site of a potential iron mine in the Penokee Hills. We have partnered with the Towns of Morse and Anderson in the collection of that data and have been able to present our findings at several community meetings. We have also continued to engage in fish passage and habitat improvement with our culvert replacement programs. The Marengo River Watershed Action Plan is

all but finished, and is an incredible example of how BRWA works with area partners and landowners in fulfilling our mission and accomplishing our goals.

Along the way, this year, we have seen a lot of change at BRWA, too. Staff members who have been with BRWA since our early years and several board members who have provided great leadership at BRWA for many years are moving on to other ways of being involved in the Bad River Watershed Association.

We welcome our new board members, and we say a HUGE THANK YOU to the departing staff and board members who have dedicated tremendous energy and time to BRWA for the last several years. Your deep dedication, excellent work, and awesome enthusiasm for all things BRWA are the things that make us the great organization we are today.

- After taking some much-needed time off after a difficult year, Executive Director and Culvert Program Manager **Michele Wheeler** began working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in August as a Fisheries Biologist.
- Watershed Action Director **Matt Hudson** began working in October for Northland College in a new position as Watershed Coordinator.
- Summer culvert crew staff **Breanne Large** and **Tyler Martin** finished up their field seasons in August, and after multiple combined years working on the culvert program, are moving on to other things in other parts of the country.
- Long-time board member and Treasurer **Jim Crandall** finished up his tenure in September. Jim served on the board for six years, and we thank Jim for the hundreds of hours dedicated to ensuring our finances are sound. Board member Bobbi Rongstad is stepping in as Treasurer beginning in October.
- Board members **Darienne McNamara** and **Randy Lehr** finished up their time on the board this summer, and we welcome **Tracey Ledder** and **Kelly McKnight** as new members of the board.

I can't say often enough how much BRWA enjoys the success it does because of all that our volunteers and staff do. Please join me in saying a special thank you to the folks listed above. As some leave their past positions and others take on new responsibilities with us, it is heartening that each of them remains committed to the mission of BRWA and each remains involved in helping us enter in to the next 10 years of taking care of the Bad River Watershed. ♦



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### Staff

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### Board of Directors

Bob Rice  
President  
Bobbi Rongstad  
Treasurer  
Pam Roberts  
Secretary

### At-large board members:

Jo Bailey  
Kevin Brewster  
Joan Elias  
Tracey Ledder  
Kelly McKnight  
Mike Ryan  
Sjana Schanning

### BRWA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Bad River Watershed Association is 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.

## BRWA Adopts US Highway 2 in Gurney

BRWA has found a new way to help keep our watershed clean—and we're starting with US Highway 2. We recently 'adopted' a stretch of US Highway 2 through Wisconsin's Adopt-A-Highway Program. The new BRWA stretch is located in the town of Gurney, 20 miles east of Ashland, commencing at State Hwy 169 (across from the Frontier Bar) and about two miles east to Curry Road. Signs acknowledging BRWA will be erected sometime this fall.

We will be planning roadside clean-up events throughout 2013 as another way to engage citizens to take care of the watershed. We also hope to adopt additional sections of road in other sub-basins of the Bad River Watershed. For more information about Wisconsin's Adopt-A-Highway Program, please visit [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/adopt-a-highway.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/adopt-a-highway.htm). ♦



## The Finding of a Mayfly

By Tracey Ledder, Technical Advisor and Board Member

Dr. Kurt Schmude, Associate Professor of Aquatic Entomology, at UW-Superior, recently published a paper about a mayfly that he and I discovered in the Bad River Watershed. This mayfly is the first documentation of this particular mayfly family in Wisconsin.

I first found one while sampling macroinvertebrates on the watershed for the Bad River Tribe, before the founding of BRWA. At first, I thought keyed it out all wrong! I was using the Hilsenhoff keys for Wisconsin, but thought this mayfly isn't even in there because Hilsenhoff had not found this mayfly in Wisconsin. Fortunately, I was working with Kurt Schmude, who was voluntarily checking my macroinvertebrate identifications. He just sort of said, "Wow, oh Wow!"

Macroinvertebrates are several groups of small animals without backbones that are large enough to see with the naked eye. Many watershed groups, including BRWA, sample aquatic macroinvertebrates for an indication of water quality. Macroinvertebrates may live in a river or stream or lake for several years before maturing and flying away. Fly fishermen mimic the adult forms that are fed on by fish when tying flies.

Mayflies are just one type of macroinvertebrate. This type usually lives a very short time as an adult, and does not feed, only mates and lays eggs back in the water. Other common examples of aquatic macroinvertebrates are stoneflies, dragonflies and water beetles.

It turns out it wasn't a onetime thing, as once again I found the new mayfly at my sampling site on the White River at Highway 13, several years after the first discovery. Kurt visited the site as well. After trying for several more years we found a few of the mayfly juvenile form nearing maturity. Kurt was able to raise a live mayfly larvae to the adult form and confirm its identity with colleagues. This mayfly is a *Neophemera bicolor*, the first finding of the *Neophemeridae* family of Mayflies in Wisconsin.

In all, this mayfly has now been found at three locations within the Bad River Watershed, two within the exterior boundary of the Bad River Tribal Reservation. The nearest documented collection of this mayfly was in Michigan, 500 miles away. Little is known about it, but its discovery in the Bad River Watershed shows us, again, how little we really know about this watershed and its inhabitants.

The paper was published in *The Great Lakes Entomologist*, 2012, Vol 45, Nos. 1-2, pages 99 -101. Authors are Kurt L. Schmude, Tracey D. Ledder, Tom H. Klubertanz and Jeffrey J. Dimick. ♦



A newly discovered resident of our watershed: *Neophemera bicolor*. Photo by Caleb Boyle ([www.troutnut.com](http://www.troutnut.com))

### Is it bugging YOU to know what we're finding in the streams?

Our current macroinvertebrate volunteers have been out and about throughout the watershed the first two weeks of October collecting their mayflies and other macros.



Would you like to know what they found? There will be lots of bugs to see at our Identification Sessions on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm, in the Science Building at Northland College. It's a great way to meet the volunteers, see what mayflies and other critters they might have found, and check out if macro sampling is something you might be interested in! Please stop on by and check it out!

## Phase 2 of Trout Brook Restoration Project Nears Completion

The Bad River Watershed Association contributed funds received through the US Forest Service Chequamegon Resource Advisory Committee to Phase 2 of a three-Phase project to reduce erosion and sedimentation problems and improve stream health in Trout Brook (a Class 2 trout stream) at the site of an old quarry west of Mellen.

Funding from the US Forest Service and a Section 154 grant received by the Town of Morse funded the majority of the project that has included installing a bridge over Trout Brook, restoring a section of the Trout Brook stream channel, and moving and paving a section of Quarry Road.

Future plans at the site (Phase 3) include removing a large pile of quarry rock from Trout Brook and restoring the stream channel. BRWA has conducted stream channel and macroinvertebrate monitoring at the site to help document improvements to Trout Brook following the projects. ♦



Left: A road crew grades Quarry Road to prep for paving.



Right: The new bridge over Trout Brook.

## “Pond”ering Ways to Help the Marengo River

By Julie Buckles, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for the Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership and Valerie Damstra, Citizen Involvement Coordinator

Marengo River Valley landowner Elmer Lippo wanted ponds on his 80-acre parcel because his nephew wanted ponds—for deer. Lippo also wanted ponds—for ducks, mostly—and to do something to help the Marengo River. Rain runs through his fields and down a series of ravines that eventually flows to the Marengo River.

Sediment is the number one pollutant affecting the Marengo River. For the last three years, BRWA has been working with landowners in the watershed to identify and implement potential solutions to problems for the land and water of the Marengo, such as excess sediment. BRWA has met with landowners at regular meetings of the Marengo River Watershed Partnership.

One of the best ways we can reduce sediment to the Marengo River is by “slowing the flow” of water running off the land and into streams, and restoring wetlands (or “ponds”) are one of the best ways we can help “slow the flow.”

Lippo learned how he could install his ponds, meet his goals as a property owner, and help the river by hearing how his neighbors, Charlie and Claire Ylitalo, were able to do the same thing the year before. Lippo and the Ylitalo’s have become actively involved in the Marengo River Watershed Partnership, and are examples of landowners who are meeting their goals as property owners and helping the watershed.

“Restoring wetlands like Charlie and Claire’s and Elmer’s are an important tool to reducing sediment, and are example of

how local citizens can help take care of the watershed,” said Matt Hudson, BRWA Watershed Action Director.

Ylitalo, a Marengo River Valley farmer, created three wetland ponds in one of his hayfields that held water. “Truth is, I wanted to make less hay,” he said. Once he retired from dairy farming six years ago, he just didn’t need as much. “I always wanted ponds but needed help.”

BRWA was able to connect Ylitalo to sources of regional funding for conservation programs. “A lot of these programs are available but people don’t know about them,” Ylitalo said. “We all have that problem of assuming everyone knows how the system works but us beginners don’t.”

“Caring for the land and water is something most property owners want to do,” said Hudson. “What’s often missing is people don’t often know there are resources to help them be good stewards.”

BRWA is also part of a regional group called the Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership (CBAP), a coalition of agencies, local governments and non-profit organizations. As a group they applied for funding to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a federal program to restore and protect the Great Lakes. A combination of funding from the GLRI, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Ducks Unlimited funded Ylitalo and Lippo’s ponds as well as other wetland projects in the

Marengo River and the Fish Creek watersheds.

For more information about BRWA’s work in the Marengo River watershed, please visit [www.badriverwatershed.org](http://www.badriverwatershed.org). To learn more about the CBAP, visit [www.northland.edu/cbap](http://www.northland.edu/cbap). ♦



BRWA recently convened some local citizens at the Ylitalo's farm to take a look at their new ponds.

*“A lot of these programs are available but people don’t know about them. We all have that problem of assuming everyone knows how the system works but us beginners don’t.”*

—Charlie Ylitalo  
Marengo River Valley farmer



Claire and Carolyn Ylitalo lead group of citizens on a tractor-pulled hay ride to see their new ponds.

# Thank You!

**THANK YOU Volunteers:** Tracey Ledder, Sharon Anthony, Bobbi Rongstad, Joan Elias, Jack Wichita, Ulli Kastens, Henry Gradillas, MaryJo Gingras, Jim Crandall, Ron Nemece, Mike Klump, Mike Stobbe, Michelle Heglund, Bob Traczyk, Eric Nelson, Biagio Nigrelli, Steve Baumgardner, Bruce Prentice, Vince Mattson, Josh Dietrich, Peter and Eileen Freiburger, David and Karen Saarinen, Traci Rongstad, Michele Wheeler, John Fiorio, Rachel Coughtry, and Laure McCloskey and her students at the Mellen School. Welcome new volunteers Thom, Ronnie, Elizabeth, Tommy, and William Rossberger!

**THANK YOU New Members and Donors:** Derek and Kim Ogle, Jack and Mary Wichita, Kevin and Sjana Schanning, Rolland and Joyce Kiel, Ron and Patty Anderson, Dane and Paula Bonk, Diane Littel and Norton Thomas, Mike and Pam Ryan, Sam Fillipo, Tana Turonie, Bob and Pat Tammen, Charles Ortman, Jim Oakley and Anne Chartier, Cyrus Hester, Jeremy Oswald, Jo and Mike Bailey, Linda Jorgensen and Jack Gunderson, Clair Morud and Sheila Mitchell, Ned and Kathy Zuelsdorff, Shari and Mark Eggleston, Steve Baumgardner, Allan and Ramona Hann, Bob Aldrich, Tom Erickson and Jane Weber, James and Ruth Brennan, Joseph and Christine Piel, Karl and Nicole Krall, Leslie Kolesar, Amarin Mello, Charlene Herron-Jordan, Gail Griffith, John Fiorio, Keith and Carol Sowl, Rebecca McDowell and Davis Taylor, Mortimer Cushman, Robert and Sondra Dunne, Tom Fitz, Cathy Zimmerman, Deb Dade, Denny Caneff, Galilee Lake Association, Andrea Haugo and Thomas Wyse, Jack and Anne Helgeson, Jason and Sarah Holmes, Jeff Cate, Jim and Jane Anklam, John Podlesny, Kathy and David Allen, Kent and Judy Goeckermann, Michael McKenna and Lea Rolfsen, Sharon Anthony and Pat Earing, Barb Bayuk, Bill and Cindy Heart, Bob and Reba Rice, Cherie Pero and Jace Johnston, Corry White, D. Basil Edgette, Dale Thomas, Joan Elias and Jim Meeker, Glenn Miller, Kristy Heidenreich and David Hollis, Matt and Sara Hudson, Jedd and Heidi Ungrodt, Jon and Michele Wheeler, Mike Fiorio, Philomena Kebec, Rick and Valerie Damstra, Linda Rise and Andy Noyes, Bobbi Rongstad and Tom Podlesny, Tony Wallner, Allison and Dan Werner, Erv Soulier, Breanne Large, Bruce Prentice, Julie Buckles and Charly Ray, Charlie and Claire Ylitalo, Brad and MaryJo Gingras, Glenn and Margaret Jackson, Kelly and Cal Westlund, Laurence Wiland, Lindsay Wood Davis and Amanda Davis, Mary Lois Shelton, Randy Lehr, Janet Bewley and David Satre, Su Neuhauser, Josh and Charmaine Swan, Tracey Ledder, Xander Waters and Melissa Helman, and the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

**THANK YOU Funders:** Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, US Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program and Great Lakes Basin Habitat Partnership, Dutton Foundation, and the Town of Morse.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** To the Delta Diner, Solstice Outdoors, Heart Graphics, Bill Heart, Ashland Yoga Studio, Bayfield Coffee Company, Jen Lutz and David Lussenhop, Xander Waters and Melissa Helman, and Andy Noyes and Stevie Matier, for your donations of food, party supplies, music and/or door prizes for the Tenth Anniversary Party; The River Alliance of Wisconsin for the copy machine; Charlie, Claire, and Carolyn Ylitalo for hosting the wetland tour and community potluck; and Mary Runkel for her excellent bookkeeping experience.

## Support the work of BRWA



**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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code on back

I am also interested in being a volunteer.

**QUESTIONS?**

**Please contact BRWA**

**715-682-2003**

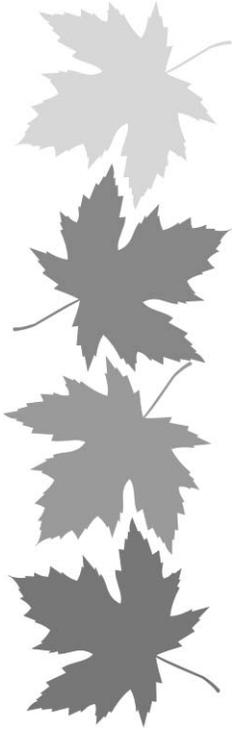
**[www.badriverwatershed.org](http://www.badriverwatershed.org)**

See our WISH LIST at

[www.badriverwatershed.org](http://www.badriverwatershed.org)

for other giving opportunities.

*Address Service Requested*



**Fall 2012 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: [valerie@badriverwatershed.org](mailto:valerie@badriverwatershed.org)

all the news from your  
**BAD RIVER**  
**WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

**Were you at our summer Anniversary Party?**  
 If not, you sure missed a great party! Here are some scenes from BRWA's 10th Anniversary Celebration!



Above: Board member and volunteer Jim Crandall greets members as they arrived.



Left: Board member Sjana Schanning and her helper Violet draw names for the door prizes.



Above: BRWA staff and board worked hard to prep for the big party!



Left: A captive audience listens to presentations given by board and staff.



Left: Board members Jo Bailey and Bobbi Rongstad serve up some yummy cake and ice cream.