



Community Foundation — Connections —

Winter 2006

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY, FOR GOOD, FOR EVER.

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan is a charitable organization committed to providing people who care about the future of our area with unique and effective ways of supporting their community now, and for generations to come.

Led by a board of local leaders, we serve nine counties including Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, and three affiliate foundations.

Together, the Community Foundation and its donors are working to increase the permanent endowment funds of our community, which, through grants and scholarships awarded in our area, improve the quality of life for residents of northeast Michigan.

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Foundation Receives \$1.3 Million Bequest

Whether donating time to volunteer projects or donating hard-earned money to worthwhile causes, each individual has their own reasons for giving back to their community.

In September, the final steps were taken to fulfill the bequest of Dee Brown Perry that \$1.3 million of her estate benefit students of Alcona High School through a scholarship fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. Mrs. Perry cared deeply about northeast Michigan, and she wanted to leave a legacy to give back to her community, even after she was gone.

Mrs. Perry moved to northeast Michigan while her husband was in the Air Force, stationed in Oscoda, where they eventually settled. Working in a clerical position and as a homemaker, she also enjoyed spending time working in her garden.

After her husband passed away, Mrs. Perry began investing her assets. She did not live lavishly, but saved as much as she could.

See **PERRY**, continued on page 2.

CFNEM Supports Bruski Sinkhole Cleanup

Old cars, refrigerators, tires, and more. This is just a small sample of the thousands of pounds of trash that have been dumped illegally into the Bruski sinkhole near Posen.

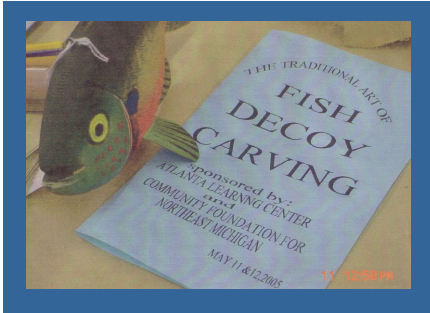
With the help of an \$800 grant to Michigan KARST Conservancy, Inc. from the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan Community Needs Fund, the Bruski sinkhole is getting quite the cleanup. Last year alone, volunteers removed three 30-yard dumpsters full of debris that has been accumulating over the past 130 years. Volunteers hope to remove just as much this year.

The grant will specifically provide funding to purchase one 40-yard dumpster to aid in the removal of debris from the sinkhole, as well as providing lunch for the 12-20 volunteers who will be spending a full day working in the hole and on its perimeter.



Volunteer workers watch as a crane lifts years' worth of debris from the Bruski Sinkhole into a large dumpster.

2005 Grant



Atlanta Community Schools received a \$300 Youth Advisory Council (YAC) grant from the CFNEM Kellogg Youth Fund for a Guest Artist Series at the Atlanta Learning Center. Among the guests were woodcarving instructors who demonstrated the art of fish decoy carving during a two-day session.

"We are so fortunate to live in an area where, on a daily basis, people decide to give back to support their community." – Barb Willyard, CFNEM

Featured Trustee



Erik Nadolsky is the CFNEM Board President. Nadolsky believes strongly in the Foundation as a vehicle for helping communities grow and improve the quality of life for its residents.

"I've learned a lot about philanthropy and perpetuity," said Nadolsky. "The Foundation provides a sound way to leave a legacy."

A life-long resident of Rogers City, Nadolsky is the Vice President of Huron National Bank.

PERRY, continued from page 1

When she began looking at options for her estate, her attorney suggested setting up a fund with CFNEM. She had always liked the idea of starting a scholarship fund to benefit students, and decided it was the best decision for the use of her estate.

"We are so fortunate to live in an area where, on a daily basis, people like Mrs. Perry decide to give back to support their community," said Barbara Willyard, executive director of CFNEM. "She truly cared about her community and wanted to do her part to support it."

Mrs. Perry's gift to the Foundation is being invested, and her charitable intents are being followed according to her plans. Like all endowment funds at the Community Foundation, the \$1.3 million will never be spent; only the income made on the investments will be awarded to students for scholarships.

This bequest, the largest in CFNEM's 30-year history, will allow Alcona students graduating this spring to apply for the scholarships. The money that will become available for students will be used for multiple scholarships, which will most likely be multiple-year scholarships.

New Funds (as of January 1, 2005)

Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan

Alpena Community College Foundation Endowed Chair Fund
Dee Brown Perry Scholarship Fund
Thunder Bay Recreational Center Fund
Curtis Township Library Endowment Fund
Huron Humane Society Endowment Fund

Iosco County Community Foundation

The Jerry and Marge Cotter Fund
Friends of the East Tawas Library Fund

North Central Michigan Community Foundation

Ward C. Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund
JL Howard Fund
ESP Richard Pauley Memorial Scholarship Fund
River House Fund
ESP Daniel Wilber Memorial Scholarship Fund
Oscoda County Library Fund

Straits Area Community Foundation

Douglas Jackson Memorial Scholarship Fund
Mattson and Sons Scholarship Fund
Friends of West Mullett Lake Fund
Mackinaw Memorial Parade, Inc. Scholarship Fund
Cheboygan Senior Center Endowment Fund
Great Lakes Captains Association Scholarship Fund

Affiliate News

North Central Michigan Community Foundation

Fund Supports Mason Tract Cedar Planting

If you have seen the pink flags along the AuSable River in the Mason Tract, then you have seen a large restoration project along the South Branch of the AuSable River in Crawford County.

The North Central Michigan Community Foundation (NCMCF) holds the Mason Tract Cedars Fund, a fund that was created to support projects and activities that increase the re-growth of cedar trees along the AuSable River in the Mason Tract.

A grant for over \$700 was given from this fund to the Huron Pines RC&D to plant more cedar trees along this section of the AuSable River – a project that will encourage species diversity and sustain healthy ecosystems. They will also provide shade to cool the waters and grow roots that will stabilize the riverbanks to prevent erosion, among many other benefits.



Volunteers mark tree-planting sights along the South Branch of the AuSable River. Photo courtesy of Huron Pines RC&D.

Straits Area Community Foundation

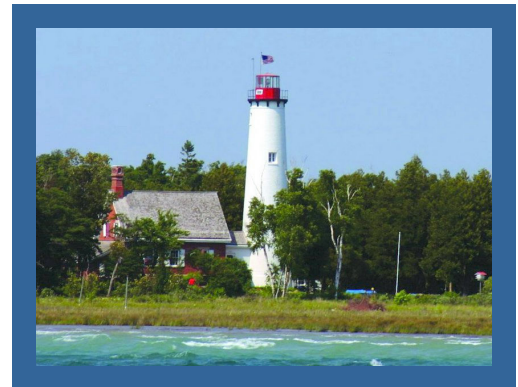
St. Helena Lighthouse Preservation Continues

The Straits Area Community Foundation holds the St. Helena Lighthouse Fund, which exists to provide funding for the all-around preservation of this historic landmark on St. Helena Island, about ten miles from Mackinaw Island on Lake Michigan. However, as Sandra Planisek points out, there's more to preserving this piece of history than just keeping up a pretty structure.

“Our mission is three-fold; to preserve the lighthouse, to preserve its stories and it's history, and to develop a new generation of lighthouse enthusiasts,” said Planisek.

Planisek says that part of the fund's purpose is to ensure that the light's preservation will continue long after those who have worked to restore it are gone.

“We are setting aside the funds now for the future so that our projects will be maintained and completed. This way there will be people to keep preserving the St. Helena Light for many, many years.”



SACF holds the St. Helena Lighthouse Fund to help preserve and protect its rich history for generations to come. Photo courtesy of Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association.

Iosco County Community Foundation

Memorial to Parents Helps Iosco County

When Marcia Hopcroft passed away in 2004, her daughters decided to create a legacy for their parents, who loved Iosco County. They established the William and Marcia Hopcroft Memorial Fund, an unrestricted fund with the Iosco County Community Foundation.

Both very involved in the community, William Hopcroft worked for the family business in Oscoda, and was also known as the voice of the Oscoda Owls at football games. Marcia worked in education, and taught adults in the Oscoda area. After her husband passed away in 1993, she became an Oscoda commissioner for seven years, working for education and economic development.

The William and Marcia Hopcroft Memorial Fund is used with the Iosco County Community Needs fund to support programs and projects that benefit Iosco County and its residents.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

News Notes

CFNEM Staff

Barbara Willyard
Executive Director
bwillyard@cfnem.org

Julie Wiesen
Program Director
wiesenj@cfnem.org

Christine Bruske-Hitch
Program Associate
chitch@cfnem.org

Maggie Putnam
Accounting and Fund Manager
mputnam@cfnem.org

The Community Foundation has added a new face to its team this year. We are happy to welcome **Christine Bruske-Hitch** as our new Program Associate. Christine has a bachelor’s degree in political science and journalism from Oakland University, and is originally from the Harrisville area. She handles all of CFNEM’s affiliates’ grants and communications.

In mid-October, the entire CFNEM staff, as well as a board member from CFNEM and each affiliate attended the three-day annual **Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) Conference** in Traverse City. The event gave important information regarding the future of community foundations, asset building, and philanthropic needs in our ever-changing communities.

We are happy to welcome **Ben Bolser** as the newest addition to the CFNEM Board of Trustees. Ben is an attorney practicing in Atlanta, Mich. We are pleased at what he brings to the Board through his background and expertise. He also helps the Board have a better understanding of the needs of Montmorency County.

CFNEM has launched its new and improved website. Donors can now make gifts to CFNEM online simply and safely, and grant seekers have easy access to information regarding grants and grant applications. Visit CFNEM and our affiliates online to see our new look at www.cfnem.org.

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Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan
111 Water Street
P.O. Box 495
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: (989) 354-6881
Toll free: (877) 354-6881
Fax: (989) 356-3319
www.cfnem.org

Our Affiliates
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Community Foundation
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