



4th Annual Meeting

TRC 2012- Making A Difference
Marcy Colclough

A Wetland for Every Occasion
Matt Meersman

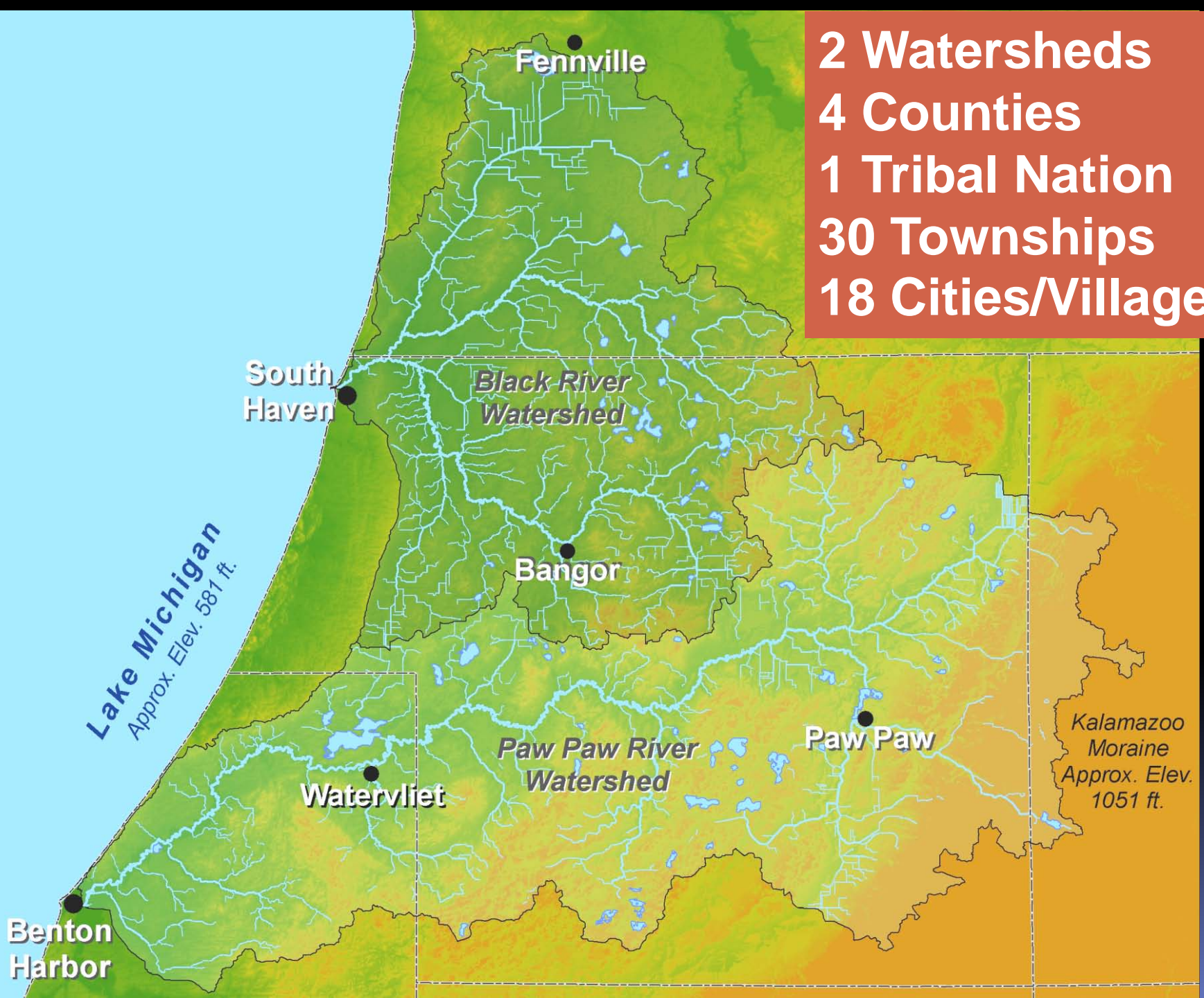
Keynote Speaker: Tom Springer
Why Swamp Gas Should Make us Happy



Making A Difference!

2012 – Highlights

2 Watersheds
4 Counties
1 Tribal Nation
30 Townships
18 Cities/Villages



Two Rivers Coalition

- 501(c)3 formed in 2009
- A membership organization
- **Our Mission** - working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy.
- **Our Vision** - Clean rivers and lakes



Watershed Management Plans



- Maps
- Photos
- Fascinating facts and figures
- **Action plans**



www.TwoRiversCoalition.org

TRC...

Promotes healthy lakes, streams and rivers by:

- Encouraging Conservation
- Increasing Awareness
- Promoting Good Practices
- Forming Partnerships



Major Partners - 2012

- Van Buren Conservation District
- Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- Bangor -South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association
- Paddling Groups
- City of South Haven
- Village of Paw Paw (Maple Lake)
- Bloomingdale Village and Township
- The Depot
- Foundry Hall
- Michigan State University Extension
- Jimmy F. New Foundation
- Paw Paw Library



Conservation, Education & Advocacy

- Website/E-News
- Campaigns
- Workshops/Events
- Supporting Partner Projects
- Increasing Membership & Support





An alliance of the Black River
and Paw Paw River Watersheds



ABOUT US THE WATERSHEDS PROGRAMS NEWS AND RESOURCES MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS

December, 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Large view calendar: [Here](#)

Join Us

Donate

24-Hour Pollution Hotlines

Play a part in keeping our
lakes, streams and rivers
clean.

Report Activities That Are

Two Rivers

Welcome!

Explore and discover
resources in the
Two Rivers Coalition,
Inc., a citizen
of the Black
River and Paw
Paw River
and advocacy.

Our goal is to be your source of information about the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds here in Southwest Michigan. We hope our web site will provide you with accurate and thought provoking information about these watersheds and the community we live in. We believe that an informed and engaged community is the key to making this one of the best places to live and play. Please look around and let us know if there is information that you would like for us to include on our web site.

Looking for a specific topic? Try Search at the top of the page.

The Black and Paw Paw Rivers drain lands in Allegan, Berrien, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The Black River flows into Lake Michigan at South Haven. In Benton Harbor, the Paw Paw River flows into the St. Joseph River which then flows to Lake Michigan.

PROGRAMS

24-Hour Pollution Hotlines
Phosphorus Reduction
Septic System Best Practices
Aquatic Buffers
Wetland Protection and Restoration
Garlic Mustard
Waterfront Wisdom

Watersheds with us.
the wonderful
Two Rivers Coalition,
health of the **Black**
River and Paw
Paw River
conservation, education,

TRC 3rd Annual Meeting

Presentations:

- Protecting public health
and water quality with well
and septic systems
inspection at time of sale.
Eric Pessel

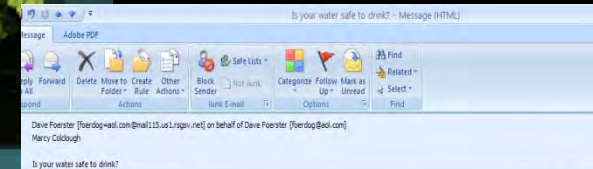
- A light and lively look at
the geological history of SW
Michigan for the last 9,752
years! Chuck Nelson

Full details [here](#)

It's official!

SWMLC closed on the purchase
of the 120 acre Garvey property.
This purchase protects one mile
of frontage on the Black River
and the vital wildlife habitat that
exists there.

Click [here](#) for story and
photos.



TRC 3rd Annual Meeting Wednesday, 14-Dec-11

Lawrence Conference Center - 6:30pm

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser](#)

Do you know if your water is safe to drink?



Leaky septic systems can pollute our inland lakes,
streams and Lake Michigan.
Leaky septic systems may also pollute your drinking water!

Friend on Facebook
Follow on Twitter
Forward to a Friend



Meeting reminder for your
bridge:
Self across the Black River

In a recent exchange with Eric Pessel, Director Barry
Eaton District Health Department, he had this to say
about well and septic systems: "In the first three years of
our program, we evaluated 5013 well and/or septic
systems. The overall failure rate was 24%. Twenty-six
percent of sites had a sewage failure condition and
22% a well failure condition. The facts are we have all
types of soil conditions in our two county district not
much unlike many other counties in southwest Michigan.
Something else to think about... while age of a system is

"We want this website to be a one-stop-shop for people wanting information on water quality issues in our community. We believe that being informed and engaged is the key to making this community one of the best places to live and play. We all want clean water, and this website will help get the message out on how to protect and improve our precious waterbodies." -

Campaign - Waterfront Wisdom



Waterfront homeowners, have a unique opportunity to contribute to the health of the watershed!

**In Van Buren County –
drain assessment reduction!**



Campaign - Zero-in-the-Middle



**You are not just
applying fertilizer to
your lawn!**

Allegan County
Van Buren County
State of Michigan

Effective January 1, 2009
Effective January 1, 2010
Effective January 1, 2012



**LAWNS ARE STILL GREEN
OUR WATER STAYS CLEAN**

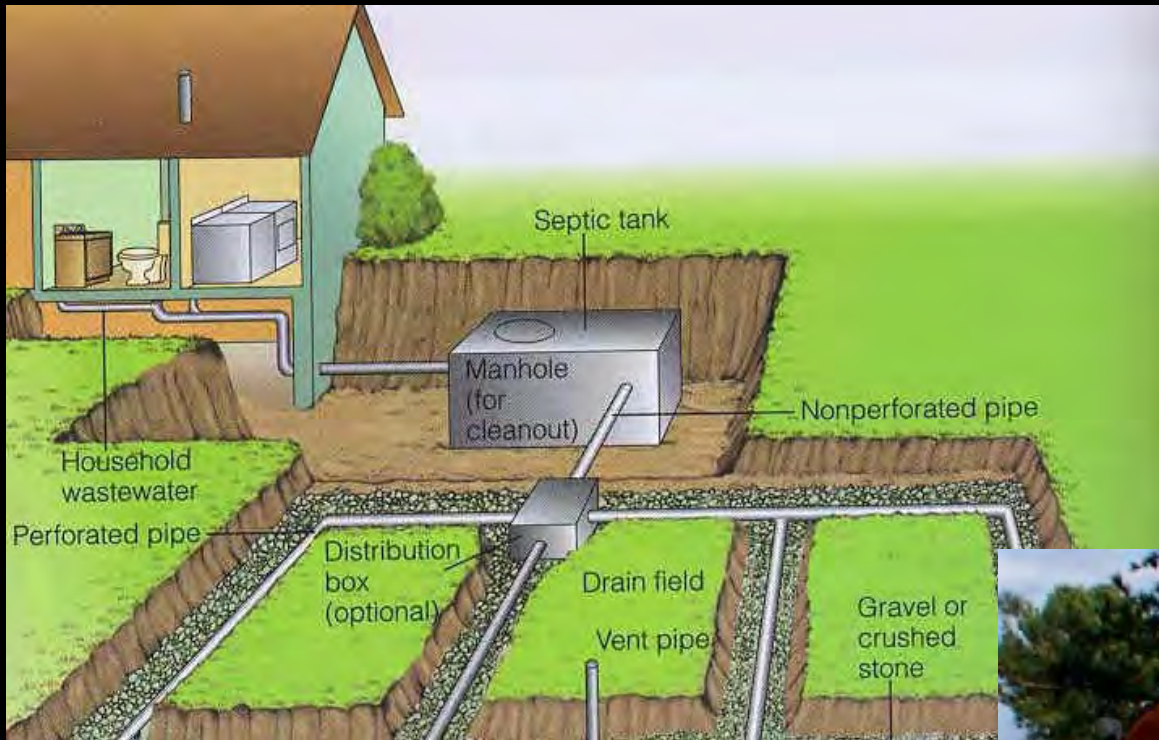
**Be Kind to
Our Waters
Buy
Phosphorous Free
Fertilizers**

**Look for 0
in the
middle!**



www.TwoRiversCoalition.org

Campaign – Septic Systems

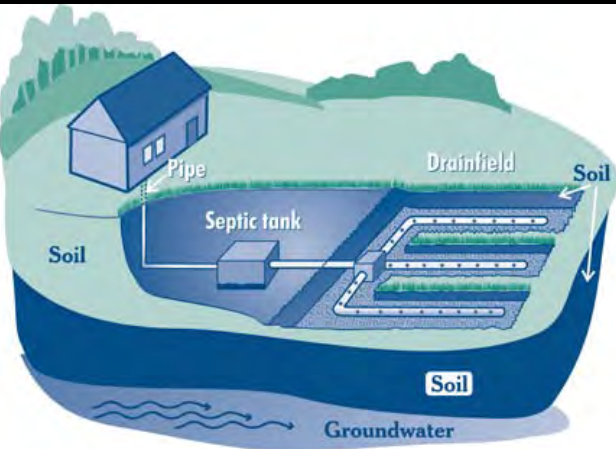
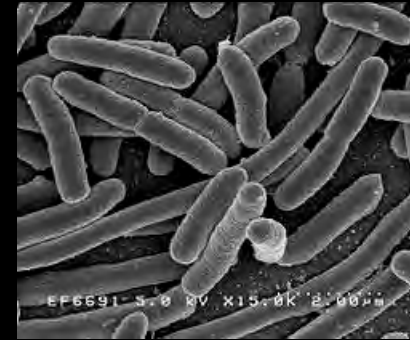


**Pump It Every
Three Years!**



Black & Paw Paw Rivers - Bacteria Monitoring Project

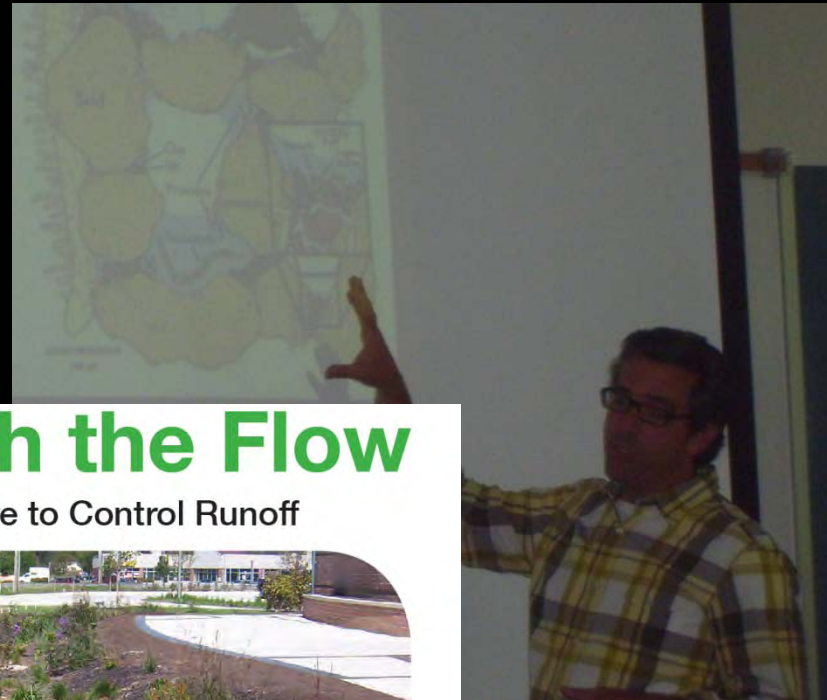
- Collected samples
 - DNA analysis to determine sources
 - Develop Action Plan to Reduce E coli levels



Presentations



DAMAGE CONTROL! Coastal Invasives



Going with the Flow

Mimicking Nature to Control Runoff



Climate Change in Michigan: Where do we go from here?

A climate discussion with **Peter Sinclair**



Workshops with Partners

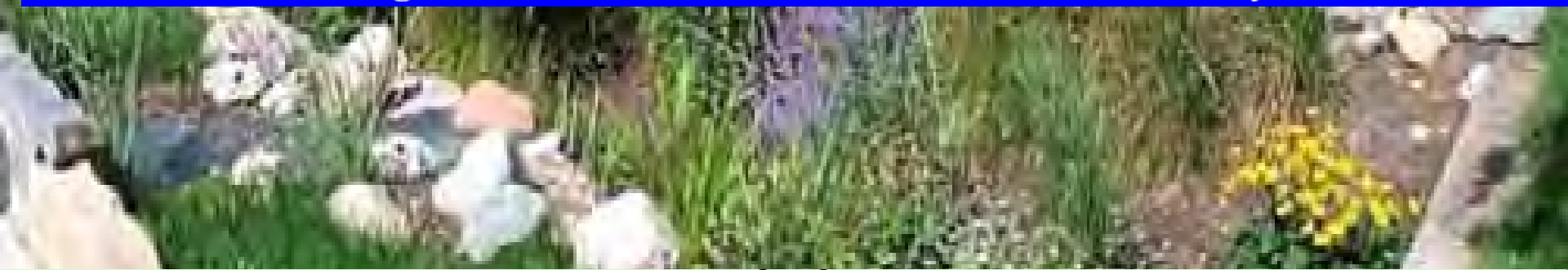
LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING

Planting for a Clean Water Future

Low Impact Development

Planning & Designing for a Clean Water Future

Using Green Practices = Clean Water & Less Money



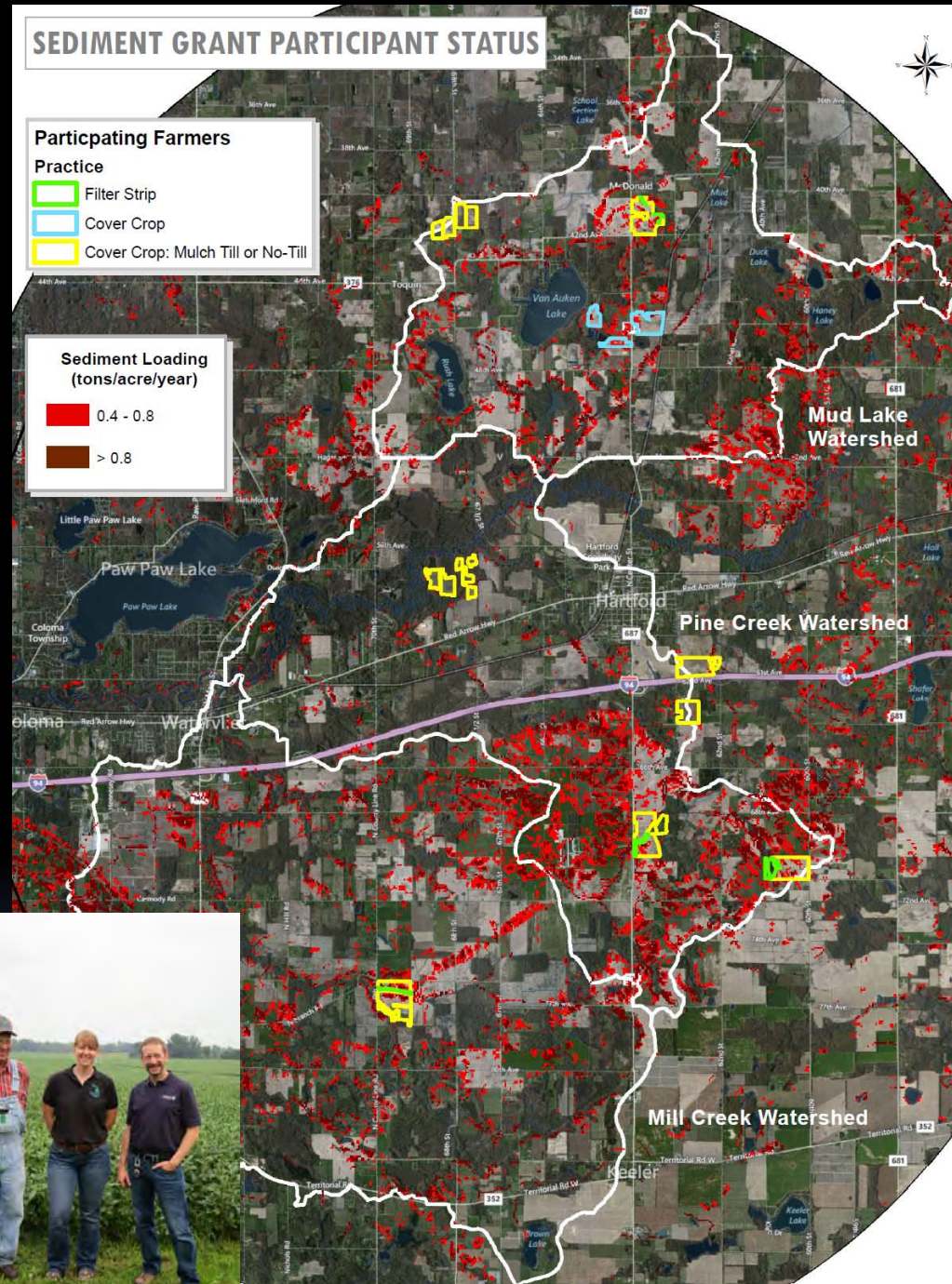
BMP AUCTION: Name your price

1st Round - June 2012

- 467 acres of cover crop
- 160 acres of mulch-till
- 65 acres of no-till
- 5 acres of filter strips

Erosion reduced over 1,400
tons over three years.

2nd Round Still Open





Wetland Protection/Restoration



Paw Paw Library Signs

Paw Paw District Library Prairie Grass

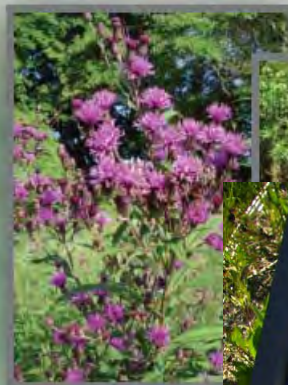
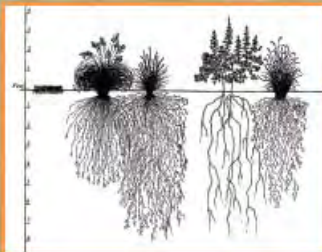
What is a Native Prairie?

A native prairie is a low maintenance landscape that uses native grasses and wildflowers to mimic historic natural land cover. Significant portions of southern Michigan were once covered with grass and wildflower prairies and savannas. Since native plants are already adapted to local climatic conditions, they can do well with natural levels of rain as their roots can reach depths of more than 15 feet in search of water. The roots of turf grass, on the other hand, only go about 3" deep.

What are the benefits of a Native Prairie?

- Provides an attractive and ultimately low maintenance landscape solution.
- Improves water quality and holds soil in place
- Attracts birds & butterflies and provides wildlife habitat.
- Sequesters Carbon

Illustrated here: Kentucky Bluegrass roots (left) extend 3" down, compared to the roots of native prairie plants: Prairie Dropseed, Side-Oats Grama, White Wild Indigo and Little Blue-stem whose roots can reach depths of 8' or more. Diagram courtesy of: Conservation Research Inst.



What you can do to Create your own Rain Garden

1. Select a site on your property
2. Eradicate the existing vegetation
3. Select plants based on soil type
4. Broadcast seed by hand
5. Mow area twice per year
6. More information- visit www.raingardens.org

Paw Paw District Library Rain Garden

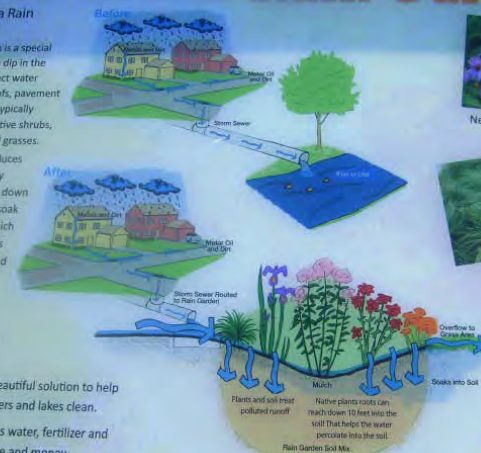
What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a special garden with a dip in the center to collect water running off roofs, pavement or lawns. It is typically planted with native shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses.

A rain garden reduces water pollution by slowing the water down and allowing it to soak into the ground which filters out pollutants such as sediment and excess nutrients.

What are the Benefits of Rain Gardens?

- Rain gardens are a beautiful solution to help keep our streams, rivers and lakes clean.
- Native plants need less water, fertilizer and pesticides—saving time and money.
- Rain gardens attract birds and butterflies.



New England Aster



Gloriosa Daisy



Prairie Dropseed



Purple Coneflower

What YOU can do

Plant a rain garden in your yard to protect the lakes and rivers:

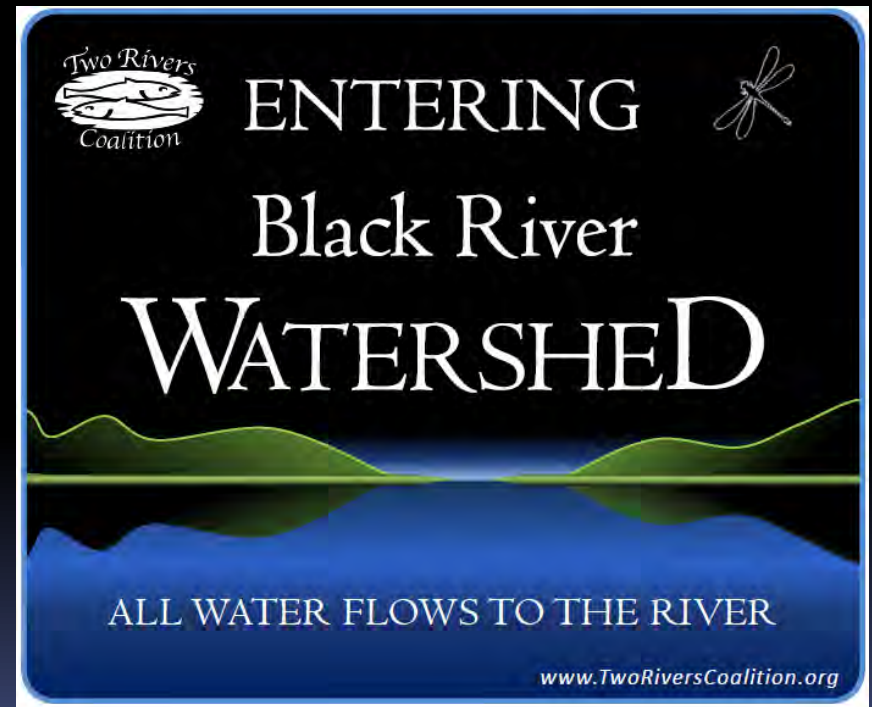
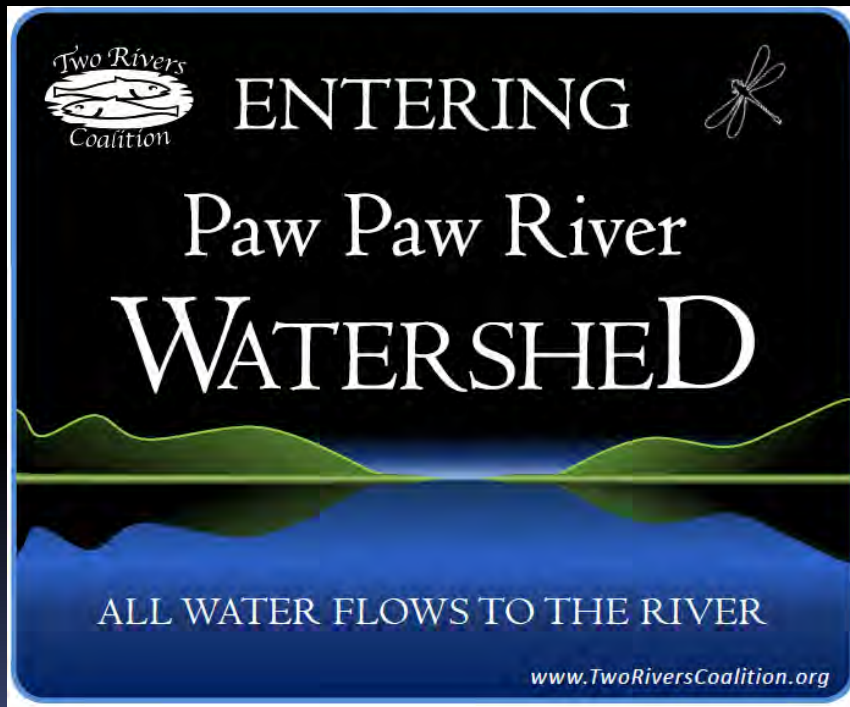
1. Select a spot in your yard to capture water runoff from the roof, paved areas or lawn.
2. Use a shovel to create a shallow dip.
3. Replace soil if needed. A good mix is 50-60% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 20-30% compost.
4. Plant with native plants (like those above).
5. Visit www.raingardens.org for more information.

Rain garden provided by a special gift from Walt and Nadine Jarvis.



Coming Soon.....

Watershed Boundary Signs





Signs on Black River

Eastern Hemlock

Demand from the Jericho Tannery for the tannin-rich bark gave a second income to many of the early settlers along the River.

BSH

7.3

County Road 380 Bridge
0.7 Miles Ahead

Site Sponsor:
Two Rivers Coalition



www.TwoRiversCoalition.org



2012 Paddles and Outings



6 events including a Polar Bear Paddle in March!



Mother's Day Wildflower Walk & Paddle

Black River Preserve



Do The Maple Circle - 2012





River Rescue—Special Mission





A special thanks to:

Foundry Hall for including TRC in this event.

The Depot for supplying TRC the beer and wine.



MURTLE BEACH
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

South Haven, MI
Oct 25 - 28



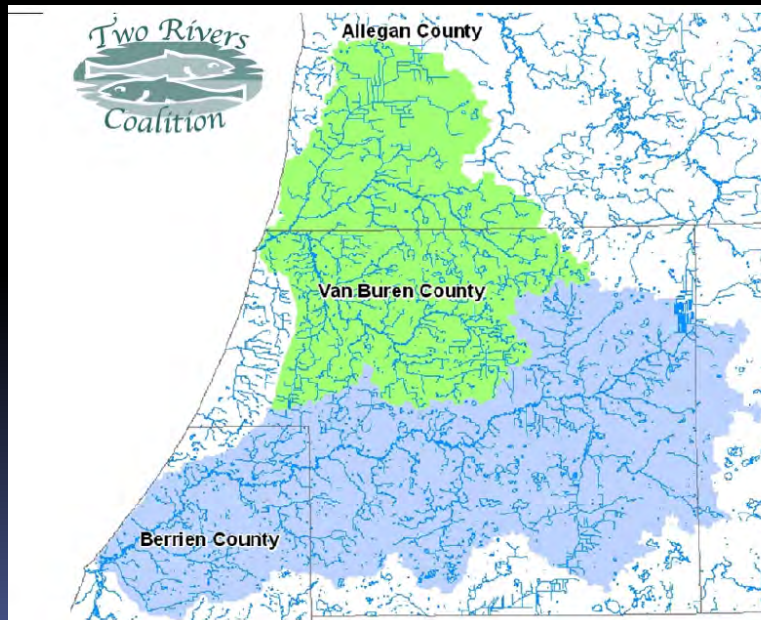
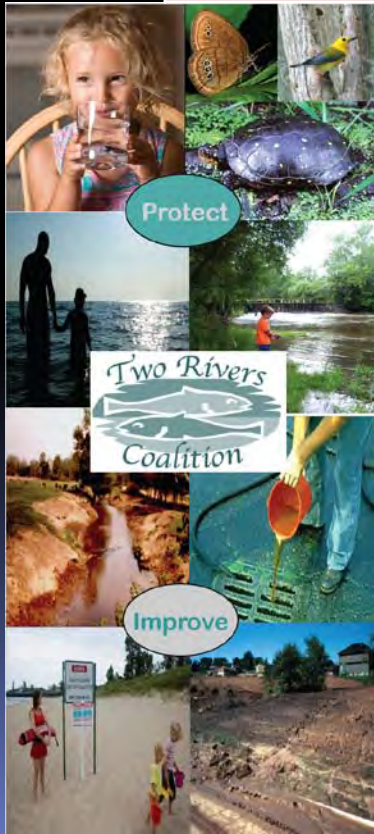
**All beer/wine sales and tips benefit
Two Rivers Coalition (TRC)!**

*Please Drink Responsibly and
Have A Designated Driver!*



Increasing Membership & Support

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Contacts	400	506	513	596
Members	75	86	157	181
Annual Meeting Attendance	65	73	75	?????



TRC is a citizen-based 501(c)3 organization working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy. *All donations to TRC are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

TRC's efforts to protect and improve water quality include:

- ♦ Informing and influencing local officials
- ♦ Sponsoring activities such as creek clean-ups and stream bank improvements
- ♦ Protecting wetlands and wildlife habitat with our partners
- ♦ Educating the general public about water friendly lawn care, riparian buffers, wetland protection, septic systems and other watershed issues

Join Two Rivers Coalition at
www.tworiverscoalition.org

Do you want to keep...?



Fishing



Drinking water



Playing in the water



Swimming



Canoeing

*We make a living by what we do,
but we make a life by what we give* Winston Churchill

- Make a Donation to TRC
- Take an active role
- Talk about issues & about TRC to friends, local officials and kids!



TRC Board of Directors

Dave Foerster, President
Sam Ewbank, Vice-President
Kenneth Nesbitt, Treasurer
Joe Parman, Secretary
Nancy Edwards
Kevin Haight
Tom Howe
Frank Jurenka
Jean Ketchum
Grant Poole
Joe Von Wahlde

*Volunteers don't
just do the work ~
they make it work.*
- Carol Pettit

