



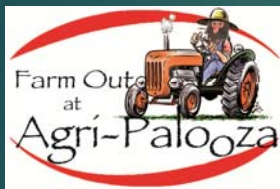
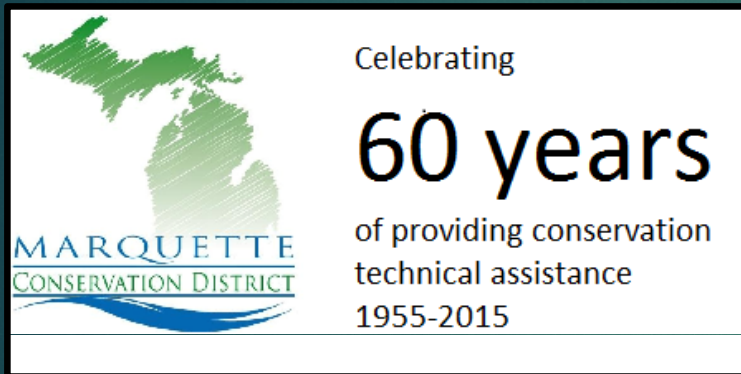
# Upper Escanaba River Watershed Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program:

## Lessons Learned

ALLYSON DALE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

MARQUETTE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# What do we do?





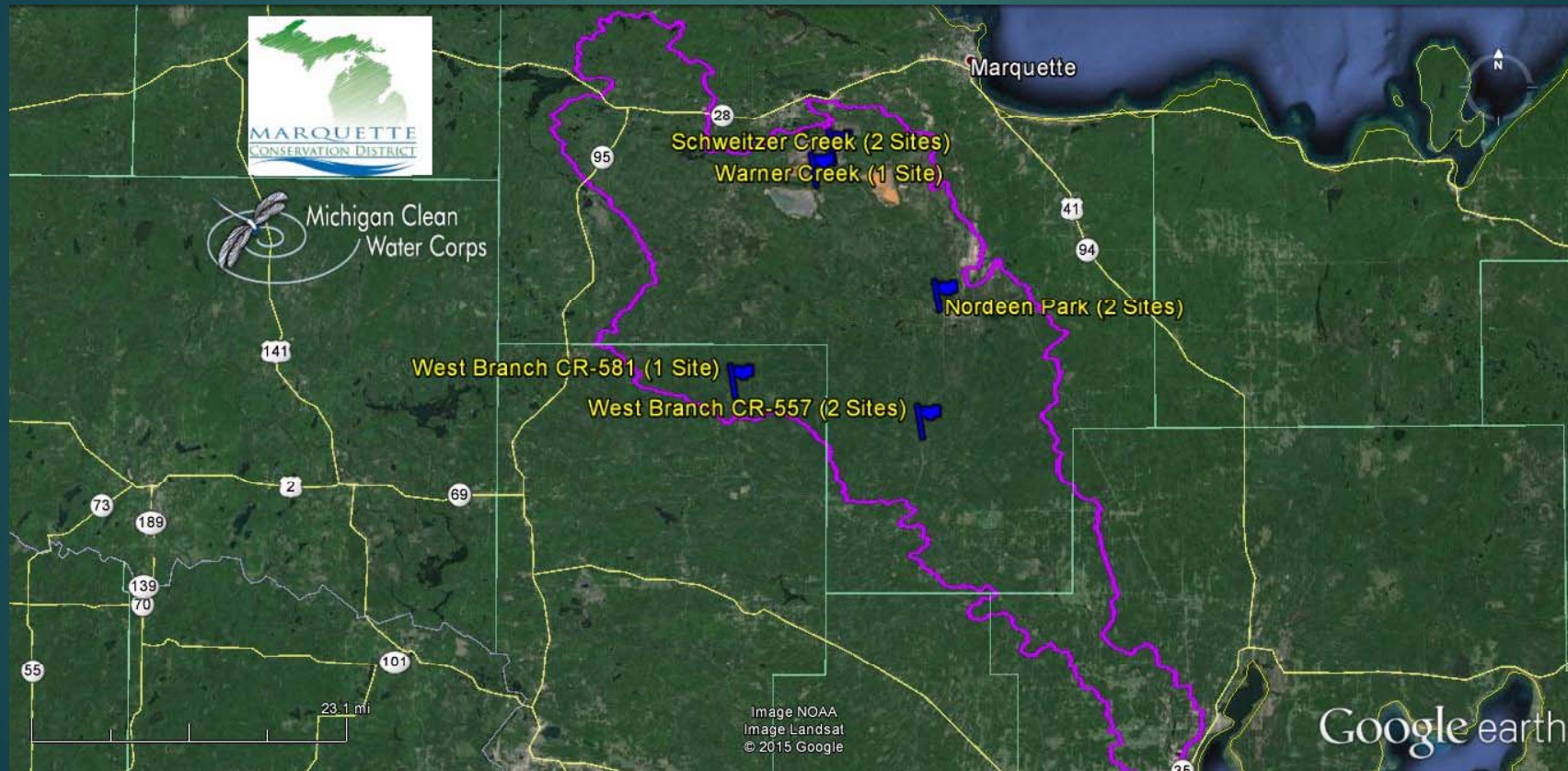
# Escanaba River Watershed



- 924 sq. miles/508 stream miles
- 565 river miles flowing through Marquette, Dickinson and Delta Counties
- Headwaters are north of Lake Michigan
- Mouth at Lake Michigan in Escanaba
- Designated cold water trout streams
- History of active logging & iron ore mining
- Some surveys done (MDEQ, ERWP)



# Sample Site Map





*The goal is to generate useful water quality data and to foster stewardship in local citizens and partners through macroinvertebrate monitoring at sample sites within the Escanaba River watershed.*

1. **Foster local stewardship** of water resources and awareness of water quality issues through education;
2. Engage local citizens and partners as stakeholders to **identify threats to and monitor the health of our streams**;
3. **Acquire useful water quality and aquatic habitat data** through volunteer monitoring events and make that data available to the general public, government officials and local stakeholder groups;
4. and ensure **sustainability** of the project into the future.





# Our Program

## Monitoring



## Stewardship





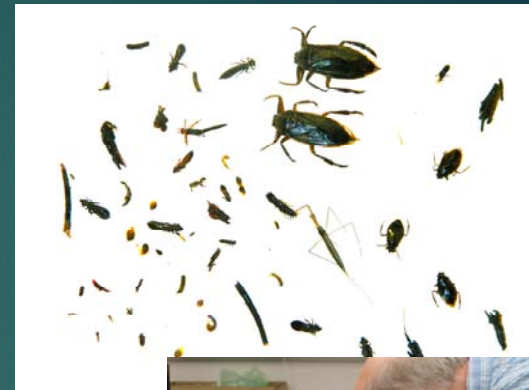
# Monitoring



Collection



Recording



Analysis



# Stewardship



Northern Michigan University's  
Protected Area Management  
class, field exercise



Program and macro display for  
outreach events



Marquette Senior High School's  
Conservation Biology class, lab  
exercise



# Lessons Learned:

## Things that work



When scouting for new sample sites, always send in the technician to test water levels...

or chest waders are a good bet!



# The Right Attitude



► Flexibility (and grit)



► Empowerment through leadership



# The Right Attitude



► Curiosity



# Recruiting Volunteers

## ► Training workshops



Macro ID Lab Workshop



Macro Collection Field Workshop



# Recruiting Volunteers

▶ Press/media coverage





# In the Field



Deviled egg trays  
(thanks Alger CD!)



Folding  
tables, or  
(better yet)  
picnic  
tables





# In the Field



Washing machine pans



Aquarium nets



# Remember: Volunteers are your best resource



## Keep them happy!

- Functioning waders
- Food
- Recognition
- Evaluations



## *What did you enjoy most about volunteering with MCCD's stream monitoring program?*

- **"Working outside** with like-minded people, **learning new skills**, and making a difference."
- "I enjoyed how friendly and helpful the staff were and how excited the volunteers were to be doing this. It was **a very rewarding experience** and I'm excited to help out in the spring."
- "It is **fun and laid back**. There is no one standing around and barking orders. Plus, any time in a stream is a good time."
- "I appreciate that this program in particular is geared toward **community involvement**, because I believe it **spreads awareness about our environment**."
- "I enjoy being outside, playing in the water, identifying the bugs, and meeting new people. Over all it's a fun activity and **a good resume builder**."



# Moving Forward

## ► Sustaining the program

- Maintain partnerships
- Continue to encourage stewardship
- Engage personal interest groups & social leaders
- Maintain public awareness





# Thank you!

