

# TORCH CONSERVATION CENTER

## ANNUAL REPORT– 2015

**The Torch Conservation Center’s mission is to promote stewardship of the Torch Lake Watershed.**

### WHERE WE’VE BEEN

In 2012, a group of committed individuals began the journey to create a new land conservancy for the Torch Lake Watershed. In 2014, we received 501c3 tax exempt status from the IRS. In 2015 we continued building a strong foundation by implementing the Principles & Practices for Nonprofit Excellence in Michigan (Michigan Nonprofit Association) and working towards accreditation (Better Business Bureau).

### WHAT WE’VE ACCOMPLISHED

*FRESHWATER EDUCATION*– During the last quarter of 2015, our website was visited by more than 425 people seeking information on all things water. Landowners and visitors can easily find what they are looking for with just a click or two. We developed tips for TRUE BLUE Living, so everyone who lives in the Torch Lake Watershed can help to protect the water we drink and the lake we enjoy. More than 50 people have signed up to receive these online tips through our TRUE BLUE News. We’re sharing the beauty of our watershed through pictures on our Facebook page. We now have 275 Likes and our top post was viewed by more than 1,000 visitors.

*LAND CONSERVATION*– We’ve developed a series of watershed maps for wetlands, farmlands, and forest lands. We’ll use them to better understand the changes that have occurred here and to identify unique places in the watershed. We’re lucky to have a bog, a fen and a perched wetland, as well as wetlands along the shore of the 40+ tributaries and a few places on Torch Lake. Networking with more than a dozen potential partner organizations is helping us design services to meet community needs. People who are interested in conserving their land have started to approach TCC.

### OUR FINANCES

TOTAL INCOME	\$13,800.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,126.81	
OPERATIONS	\$ 1,819.74	(22.4%)
PROGRAM	\$ 6,307.07	(77.6%)
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$ 5,543.19	

**THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD!**

Peg Comfort (Bellaire, MI)– Board Chair

Trish Narwold (San Diego, CA)– Board Vice– Chair

Dave Peterson (Alden, MI)– Treasurer

Barb Lockrey (Alden, MI)– Secretary

Keith Ross (Warwick, MA)

Emilee Syrewizce (Charlotte, NC)

**THANK YOU TO OUR ADVISORS:**

Your advice and expertise have really helped us start this new organization using best practices, while keeping an eye toward sustainability.

Eric Campbell, Mike Meriwether, Diane Verploegh, Laura McArtor, Juliette Schultz, Heidi Schaffer, Brad Jensen, Anne Brasie, Haley Breniser, Sarah U’Ren, Stacey Truesdell, Kati Flees

**THANK YOUR TO OUR DONORS!**

We truly appreciate your belief in our vision of a community committed to actively caring for the water we drink, the rural landscape that surrounds us and our beautiful Torch Lake!