



**TORCH CONSERVATION CENTER**  
2021 HIGHLIGHTS



# Welcome! We Believe In

**TEACHING people how to care for Torch Lake**  
With your help, we are reaching out to Teach, Conserve, and Connect. We've developed simple, easy to use materials, accessible at the TRUE BLUE Gallery and online.

- Tips for a lake-friendly lifestyle to Keep Torch Clean!
- Information on easy lawn-care habits to Keep Torch Clear!
- Do-it-yourself landscaping projects to Keep Torch Blue!

**CONSERVING natural beauty, fish and wildlife**  
We offer information on:

- Identifying and planting native species
- Getting rid of invasive species
- Providing individual consultation to discuss steps you can take to conserve your property

**CONNECTING people, land and water**  
We created the TRUE BLUE Gallery as a center for all things Torch Lake. We're excited to be in a new, larger location for our 6th summer in Alden.

- Educational displays and materials about the watershed
- A variety of works by local artists
- Lake gifts for family and friends
- Friendly, knowledgeable docents to answer your questions

# Envisioning the Future

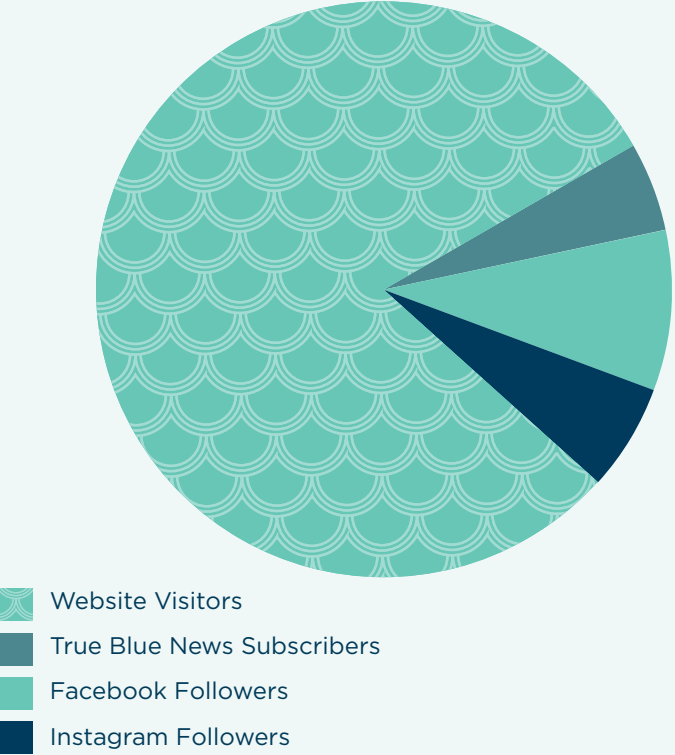
We're growing and supporting a well-informed community of landowners, businesses, and visitors working together to ensure safe drinking water, healthy local food and fish to eat, and clean water for swimming and boating in Torch Lake.

**As our knowledge of this amazing place deepens, so does our commitment to *Keep Torch Lake BLUE...Forever!***



# Our Online Community

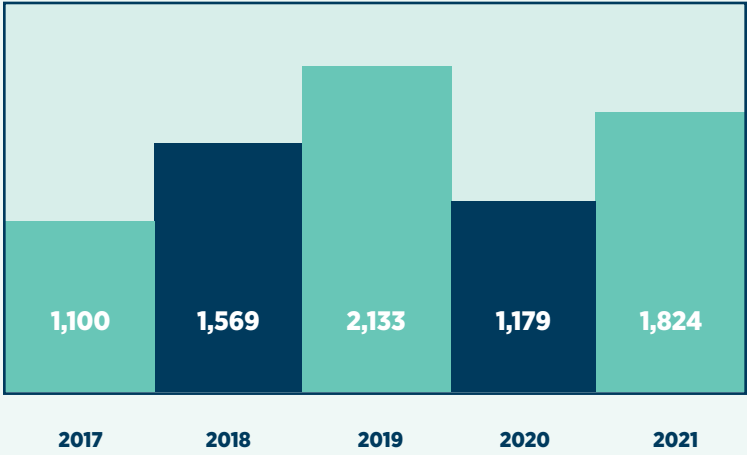
**Our online community totals 12,971 people.**



# Our Membership



# Our Gallery Visitors





## Building a Vibrant Torch Lake Community

**“It takes a village” to ensure that Torch Lake stays Clean, Clear and BLUE!**

That’s why it’s so important that we all work together. We’re proud to partner with landowners, local businesses and nonprofit organizations, as well as individuals, to promote stewardship in the Torch Lake Watershed.

### Nonprofit partnerships

We’re part of the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Protection Plan Team which meets regularly with 19 other nonprofits and government reps to share information.

We are partners with Torch Lake Protection Alliance and Three Lakes Association and have formed the Torch Lake Steering Committee to review, recommend and coordinate joining projects. This group works to promote informed lawn care practices, shoreline protection, and water quality assessment.

### 2021 Joint Projects

- **Lawn Care Campaign:** Distributing “Don’t Fertilize” signs to 100 more landowners
- **Shoreline Stewardship Campaign:** Developing and distributing three postcards to 1500 waterfront landowners

### Local Businesses

We engage with more than 50 local businesses-hiring local contractors to build our checkout counter, installing watershed signs on business properties, designing and distributing educational materials, creating a native plant garden to name a few.

## Working with Our Partners

Three nonprofits serve Torch Lake, each focusing on what they do best. We share resources—people, time and money—to improve communications to the community we serve and increase our impact on Torch Lake’s future.

### Bob Milliron – Kewadin, Michigan Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA)

After selling his manufacturing business in 2021, he and his wife found a home on Torch Lake. Shortly thereafter, he became involved with the TLPA Program Committee and now serves as the Board Vice-chair.

When fellow committee members referred to Torch Conservation Center’s website, Bob checked it out and was impressed, not just with the “technical and biological knowledge, but the historical knowledge of what has worked and what hasn’t,” Bob comments. He also stopped by the TRUE BLUE Gallery in Alden and picked up free educational materials. He thinks, “They’re fantastic, because they’re concise and give ideas for steps you can take in your own home and yard.”

He can’t say enough about TRUE BLUE News, our monthly e-news with specific tips to care for Torch Lake. He even forwards it to other folks and encourages them to take positive steps, too. “Torch Conservation Center is about education, but in a different way,” he says.

“TCC has the ability to convey technical information, so ordinary folks can understand and take action. Plus, they’re willing to share the information with other groups, which has led to two collaborative projects among the three Torch Lake groups.”

**Bob thinks this collaboration is key to protecting Torch Lake for the future.**



Julie and Bob Milliron



## Community Partners

**We'd like to thank the following community partners who help us all "Care for Torch."**

Allegra Printing  
Anderson Aerial Photography  
Antrim Conservation District  
Bailey Designs  
Barker Creek Nursery  
Blue Ribbon Events  
Blue Star  
Landscape Supply  
Brownwood Acres  
Butch's Tackle & Marine  
Cherry Lake Publishing  
Claige Properties  
Copy Queen  
Creative Characters  
Cyman Gardens  
Downtown Alden  
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Elk Rapids Garden Club  
Fisher Insurance  
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy  
Grass River Natural Area  
Gurr Farm  
Helena Township Historical Society  
Horizon Books  
Inacomp Computer Center  
Juniper Garden Club  
King Orchards  
Land Information Access Association  
Mezinets Design  
Michigan Garden Club Association  
Michigan Maps Online  
Muffin Tin  
Naturescape Nursery  
Northwest Michigan Health Department  
Old Mission Investments

Paddle Antrim  
Paradise Properties  
The Pear Tree  
Pine Hill Nursery  
Pro Image Design  
Proof Positive Brand Design  
Rocky Top Farms  
Rodger's Grass-fed Beef  
Rosetta Stone Hardscapes  
Sleepytime Press  
Tailgate Joinery  
The Watershed Center  
Three Lakes Association  
Torch Lake Protection Alliance  
Village Market  
Water Fire Vineyards  
Whistling Frog  
Tile Company  
Widow's Peak Design

**THANK YOU!**

## Community Partner Profile

**Our vision is to support a well-informed community of local businesses, landowners and visitors who actively care for Torch Lake.**

### **Gary & Jill Scheitler – Alden, Michigan Paradise Properties USA**

While growing up in Kalamazoo, Jill came to visit her grandparents on Clam Lake. After she married Gary in 1987, they drove north to Torch Lake for their vacations and finally decided to stay in 1997. They started a vacation rental company and ventured into real estate brokerage, Paradise Properties USA, in Alden.

"We love Torch Lake as much as anyone, even though we don't own property on the lake. A lot of visitors start as renters and then become landowners. It's important for everyone to know how to care for Torch Lake," Jill remarks.

As active managers of the vacation rental division, Jill and Gary think renters as well as homeowners need to respect the lake. Not overloading septic systems with big parties, keeping the noise down and being considerate of the neighbors are all important.

Gary thinks Torch Conservation Center's having a storefront in Alden makes a big difference. People can visit the TRUE BLUE Gallery, get their questions answered, pick up free materials and donate to help keep Torch Lake blue—all in one stop!

**Gary and Jill share Torch Conservation Center's cards about renting on Torch Lake, hiking in the watershed and living with Swimmer's Itch. They're wonderful partners in conservation!**



Gary & Jill Scheitler

## Meet Our Teams

Torch Conservation Center focuses on teamwork. Teams bring energy, ideas and creative solutions to difficult problems. Their diversity drives our success and enables us to serve our growing community more effectively.

### Leadership Team

Paul Beaupre  
Peg Comfort  
Barb Lockrey  
Trish Narwold  
Rob Nissly  
Keith Ross  
Em Syrewicze

### Admin Team

Kathy Amerman  
Anissa Bittner  
Julie Coulter

### Creative Team

Jack Bodis  
Eric Campbell  
Liubov Matviyevskyy  
Diane Verploegh  
Suzanne Walker

### Gallery Team

Connie Brigham  
Stewart Campbell  
Robin Crumrine  
Susan DiRosa  
Beth Dole  
Sallie Foley  
Linda Fox  
Paige Hackett  
Mary Haley  
Karen Leader  
Drew Narwold  
Lyn Petty  
Karina Pone  
Debbie Ross  
Karen Swanson  
Ralph Swanson  
Cottie Volle  
Nicholas Waggoner  
Scott Waggoner  
Bev Wehr  
Val West

THANK YOU!



Photo courtesy of Four Winns Glastron

## Volunteer of the Year

Our volunteers continue to amaze us with their willingness to lend a hand, their enthusiasm for our stewardship program, and their commitment to caring for Torch Lake.

### Barb Lockrey – Alden, Michigan 2021 Volunteer of the Year

“My grandparents came here as children, so I have a long history in the area and many family members with roots here. I came to Torch Lake as a child, and my dad built our house in 1955. When I left active duty with the Army, I moved to Alden to teach in Alba and have lived here since 1982,” Barb says.

Torch Conservation Center attracted Barb, because our stewardship program focuses on the whole watershed and visitors, too. “I want to help Torch as much as a person who owns a home on the lake—in some ways, maybe more—because my family

has roots going back to the 1900’s.” This program offers ideas and lessons on what everyone can do to keep Torch Lake BLUE!

Barb is an outstanding TCC ambassador. “I always refer people to the TRUE BLUE Gallery. I never miss a chance to tell people to stop at the Gallery to pick up information, visit the website and sign up for TRUE BLUE News. Of course, I ask them to volunteer and donate, too!”

Barb donates more than 100 hours a year by serving on the Board of Directors and Gallery Team, managing the photo library, helping with mailings, taking photos and managing TCC’s Facebook

page, and dozens of other tasks, so the organization runs smoothly.

**Thank you, Barb, for your dedication and your creativity. Your voice as a long-time local resident reminds us that we’re all connected in this wonderful watershed community.**



Barb Lockrey

## Gallery Sponsors Make a Difference

Gallery Sponsors have made a difference in promoting stewardship in the Torch Lake Watershed. Because of their support of the TRUE BLUE Gallery in Alden, TCC reaches thousands of people every year.

**Bruce & Nancy Brown – Cincinnati, Ohio**  
**TRUE BLUE Gallery Sponsors**

After visiting friends on nearby lakes, Bruce and Nancy Brown, decided to invest in a cottage of their own. They fell in love with Torch Lake the first time they saw her, because the water was cleaner and prettier than other lakes. As Bruce says, “Our friends and family always look forward to our time at the lake.”

One day, they strolled down Lake Street in Alden, then up to the TRUE BLUE Gallery and discovered a place with beautiful art and water-friendly gifts. They also viewed displays, picked up free materials, and met docents, who chatted with them about how to care for Torch.

They were surprised by how easy caring for the lake can be. “I read all the TRUE BLUE News tips and try to change our habits for the benefit of the lake. From information on hazardous waste to septic system maintenance—it all matters!” Nancy comments.



Nancy & Bruce Brown

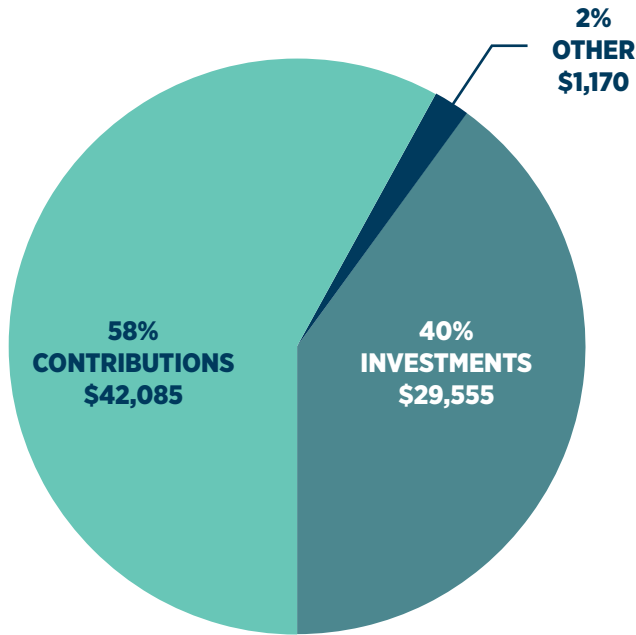
They’re working on a shoreline planting project, so information from the website on native plants and trees has been helpful, too.

Nancy and Bruce say, “We support Torch Conservation Center because the TRUE BLUE Gallery is a physical place where you can learn about the lake and how to protect it. People can come in and learn what to do to protect Torch Lake. It’s just different than doing a web search.”

**“Everyone can make a difference in caring for the lake—and if we do, Torch Lake’s cleanliness and beauty will endure.”**

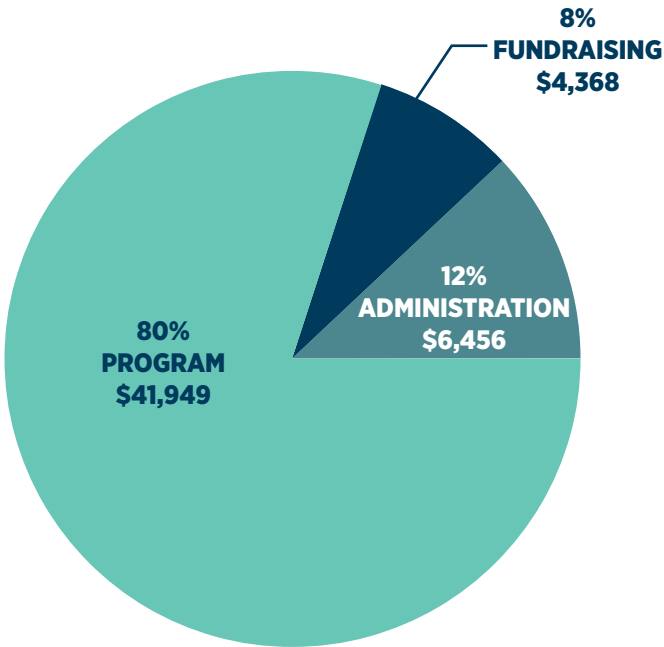
— The Browns

## 2021 INCOME



**TOTAL: \$72,810**

## 2021 EXPENSES



**TOTAL: \$52,773**

Our Generous Supporters:

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Kathleen Volle  
Kent and Suzanne Walker  
Janet Wamboldt  
Kim and Deborah Ware

Whistling Frog  
Tile Company  
Cynthia Wicker  
Anthony Williams  
William and Joan Wilson  
Barbara Young  
David Zondervan  
Doug Zondervan

THANK YOU!

## Giving in Different Ways

### Honorarium Recipient

Gifts were made in honor of the names shown in bold.

**Patti Causemaker**

Barbara Young

**Trish Narwald**

Steve and Sallie Foley

**Peg Comfort**

Steve and Sallie Foley  
Rebekah Lynch  
Kent and Suzanne Walker  
Cynthia Wicker

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Maureen Nagelberg

**John and Nancy Kelley**

Susan Kraft

**Barbara Lockrey**

Tim and Linda Fox

### Memorial Recipient

Gifts were made in memory of the names shown in bold.

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Marie Beaupre

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**John Melfi**

Mary Chenoweth

**Bill Penozza**

Amy Saliccioli

**Terry Rowe**

Thomas and Margaret Comfort

**Clifford Thompson**

Scott Thompson

**Mollie Thompson**

Scott Thompson

## Join Us

**Supporting stewardship in the Torch Lake Watershed is the best way to show your appreciation and love of our watershed.**

**Find out how to be a part of the solution.**

**[conservetorch.org/contact](https://conservetorch.org/contact)**

True Blue Gallery  
9046 Helena Road, Alden, MI 49612



We share your love for Torch Lake. We all care about what happens to this amazing place. Everyone wants to continue having fun with family and friends—building traditions and memories to last a lifetime.

You’ve shared your ideas, your expertise, your time and your hard-earned dollars with Torch Conservation Center. You’ve also helped spread the word to thousands of other people, who can now show they care, too.

We’re asking for your continued support and participation. Torch Conservation Center will continue to work tirelessly to help care for Torch Lake.

For all of this and more, we thank you!

— Your Board of Directors



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Bellaire, MI 49615

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

