



**2022 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 7th 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

<< Cover photo courtesy of Scarab Jet Boats

## Envisioning the Future

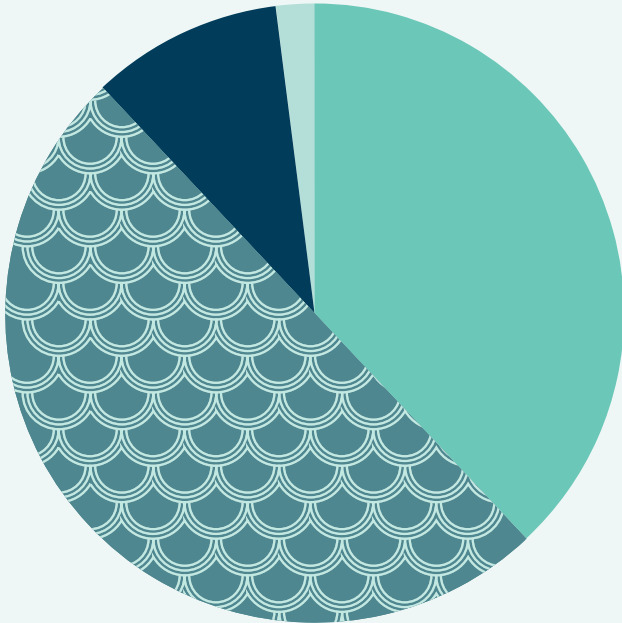
We're growing and supporting a well-informed community of landowners, businesses, and visitors working together to ensure safe drinking water, healthy local food and fish to eat, and clean water for swimming and boating in Torch Lake.

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

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



## Our Impact



-  More Than 20,278 People Served
-  15,278 Website & Facebook Followers
-  4,200 Gallery Visitors
-  800 TRUE BLUE News Subscribers

## Our Services

### TRUE BLUE Mission

Our mission is to serve our community by promoting stewardship in the Torch Lake Watershed. We love chatting with you, answering your questions and listening to your concerns about the future of this beautiful place. We enjoy creating new ways to meet your needs.

### TRUE BLUE Gallery

The “One-stop Shop” for all things Torch Lake. Stop in and pick up free materials to keep toxins out of our water. Recipe cards for lake-friendly cleaning and gardening make it easy to care for Torch!

### TRUE BLUE News

Sent to your Inbox every month with a simple tip for lake-friendly living. We explain the science behind the tip and provide a few steps you can take to Keep Torch Lake BLUE!



**CONSERVETORCH.ORG** is your online resource for information about Torch Lake. It's packed with information about ways to conserve the land, water and natural resources in the Torch Lake Watershed. Our Facebook page features beautiful photos and connects you to key pages on our website.



## Strengthening Local Partnerships

### We engaged with 34 Community Partners in 2022!

Collaboration is the key to a strong community. We're proud to partner with local businesses, landowners (both on and off the lake) and nonprofit organizations to Care for Torch!

#### **Birdsfoot Native Nursery and MSU Master Gardener's Program:**

Master Gardener Lyn Petty installed a new butterfly garden in front of the Gallery, and Master Gardener Karen Swanson added more native plants to the pollinator garden. We're looking forward to future projects with our new partners.

#### **Torch Lake Protection Alliance:**

Two TCC volunteers serve on the project team for the Torch Lake Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Project being conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

#### **Torch Lake Protection Alliance and Three Lakes Association:**

Our volunteers worked on two community outreach projects.

#### **Lawn Care Campaign:**

Distributed "Don't Fertilize" signs to 100 landowners in the Torch Lake Watershed.

#### **Shoreline Stewardship Campaign:**

Developed and distributed 4,500 postcards promoting shoreline stewardship practices.

#### **Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Team WPIT:**

We meet regularly with 19 other nonprofits and government reps to implement the plan.

## 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.

### Dan Sajkowski - Kewadin, Michigan Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA)

Dan grew up vacationing on Torch Lake in the 1960s and has wonderful memories of trolling for lake trout with his uncle in his wooden Thompson boat. Thirty years later, he introduced his family to the lake, but it wasn’t until 2002 that he and his wife bought a home on the west shore. Then he joined TLPA and two years ago, he offered to serve on the Board. Now he leads as president, because he wants to give back to the lake.

After retiring from a career in the energy industry, Dan applied his background in chemical engineering to the project team for the Torch Lake Long-term Monitoring and Evaluation Project conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey. He’s worked closely with TCC volunteers on this project.

“Torch Conservation Center has great people! They’re credible with high integrity. They’ve been an asset to the USGS Project Team. TCC has a different outlook on living on the lake, and they offer people easy ways to take care of Torch.”

“We do our best to follow best practices. We pump the septic tank every two years and we’ve removed invasive species from our yard. For 15 years, we’ve been treating a 100 year old ash tree growing along the shore to protect it from the invasive emerald ash borer. My wife is very interested in native plants, so we’re working on a plan to restore the natural shoreline.”



Dan Sajkowski and family

## Community Partners

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

Anderson Aerial  
Photography  
Antrim Conservation  
District  
Bailey Designs  
Barker Creek Nursery  
Blue Star Landscape  
Supply  
Butch's Tackle & Marine  
Cherry Lake Publishing  
Claige Properties  
Copy Queen  
Creative Characters  
Cyman Gardens  
Downtown Alden  
Business Association  
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  
Pro Image Design  
Proof Positive Design  
Rocky Top Farms  
Rodger's Grass-fed Beef  
Rosetta Stone Hardscapes  
Short's Brewing Company  
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

## Gallery Artists

**Thank you to our gallery artists who share their unique visions of Torch Lake.**

Lewis Adams  
Shawn Allen  
Kathy Amerman  
Suzanne Andrecht  
Bob Ayla  
K.C. Babb  
Ruth Bloomer  
Carol Buteau  
Patty Clark

Paula Cordes  
Ilona Davidov  
Dani Knoph-Davis  
Christie Drees  
Bonnie Drick  
Judy Ettema  
Jane Falion  
Pam Fellerhoff  
Lynn Fisher  
Rosemarie Franco- Bell  
Fred Gasper  
Monica Gasper  
Tori & Zack Gosnell  
Mary Guntzville  
Heather Higham  
Mary Halery  
Heather Higham  
Susan Howard  
Sharon Hubbard  
Theresa Hubbard  
Al Hurd  
Julie Hurd  
Jeff Krino  
Kay Lang  
Teri Lemke  
Lisa Lirones  
Barb Lockrey  
Leda Male

Ralph Mallory  
Theresa McGill  
Stacy McKellip  
Wendy McWhorter  
Trish Narwold  
Debbie Northrup  
Annette Notman  
Robin Rich  
Denise Smychynsky  
Suzanne Straebel  
Two Hoots Studio  
Malayna Schwartzenduber  
Melissa Schwartzenduber  
Jane Theobold  
Karen Tomlinson  
Cathy VanLeit  
Barb VanPelt  
Bev Wehr  
Sherry Westenbroek

**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.

### Rodger Dewey – Helena Township, Michigan

Rodger Dewey is the founder of Rodger’s Grass-Fed Beef, LLC on the ridge overlooking Torch Lake, and Dewey Insurance in Kalkaska. A life-long resident of Helena Township, he purchased the original acreage from his parents in 1955. Rodger is one of only two cattle farmers in the Torch Lake Watershed. His “Farm to Table” operation provides an important source of food for residents and visitors.

“My goal is to make my land act as a sponge, so water soaks into it, not runs-off it,” he explained. By transitioning his farmland away from conventional crops to grass-based grazing, Rodger cares for Torch Lake by decreasing nutrient inputs and erosion on his family farm.

Capitalizing on the relationship between his cows and the grass, he makes sure the pastures cycle organic matter, which increases the soil’s capacity to hold water and nutrients. His land filters water, recharges the aquifer that feeds Torch Lake, and sequesters carbon. With his focus on the future, he ensures the sustainability of both his farm and our water quality.



Rodger has a “Welcome to the Torch Lake Watershed” sign on his land and has worked to remove invasive species, too. He supports Torch Conservation Center, because it is a small community-based organization working on the challenges of preserving a precious resource- our water!

**Rodger thinks his actions on the farm are like the actions that waterfront landowners can take to care for Torch. By doing the right thing, you can *increase* infiltration of rainwater and *decrease* run-off and erosion pollution of the lake.**

## Teamwork Makes a Difference

Thanks to our teams of dedicated volunteers and committed community partners, our small organization has a Big Impact!

### Leadership Team

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

### Admin Team

Kathy Amerman  
Anissa Bittner  
Erin King  
Rob Nissly

### Creative Team

Marie Beaupre  
Creative Characters  
Proof Positive Design  
Peg Comfort  
Barb Lockrey  
Liubov Matviyevskyy,  
Mezinets Design  
Trish Narwold

Diane Verploegh  
Suzanne Walker

### Gallery Team

Haley Breniser  
Connie Brigham  
Erin Brown  
Jeanette Carlton  
Albert Cash  
Joe Cash  
Steve Cash  
Peg Comfort  
Tom Comfort  
Chris Coulter  
Hannah Coulter  
Julie Coulter  
Brian Crumrine  
Elise Crumrine  
Susan DiRosa  
Beth Dole  
Connor Dole  
Howard Dole  
Sallie Foley  
Linda Fox  
Paige Hackett

Robin Hawley-Crumrine  
Pro Image Design  
Rob Lambert  
Mike Lambert  
Karen Leader  
Barb Lockrey  
Bob Logee  
Tailgate Joinery  
Trish Narwold  
Rob Nissly  
Linda Oxford  
Dave Peterson  
Lyn Petty  
Stephanie Pfeiffer  
Debbie Ross  
Keith Ross  
Emilee Syrewicze  
Karen Swanson  
Nicholas Waggoner  
Scott Waggoner  
Bill Weiss



**THANK YOU!**



## Volunteers 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.

### Chris and Julie Coulter 2022 Volunteers of the Year

In 2019 Chris and his wife Julie took over the cottage that had been in his family for fifty years. They began living there full time the next year. Seeing a lot of changes in the lake over time inspired them to want to help out.

Chris and Julie are mindful of protecting the ecosystem by not fertilizing their lawn, keeping a natural buffer of native plants an appropriate distance from lake, and doing their part as riparian owners.

The Coulters support TCC because it has made them more educated about what can and needs to be done to preserve Torch Lake. Giving back to the lake is an important value to them, as is the bigger picture of taking care of the planet. They stated that:

**“TCC provides information and steps to do that. Torch Lake is so beautiful, supporting TCC is the least we can do.”**



## 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.

### Karen Swanson - Detroit Area TRUE BLUE Gallery Sponsors

Karen Swanson is a Master Gardener from the Detroit area who has vacationed up north from childhood. Ten years ago she and her husband bought a condo near Clam Lake in order to be on Torch longer during the year.

When Karen's master gardener program at MSU required a forty hour project involving the community, she chose to develop the native plant garden at the TCC Gallery. She also improved her own lakefront area with native plants, a rain garden, and rock placement to forestall erosion and return the habitat to its natural state. This work expanded to include a similar plan for her neighbors along the 1000ft condo shoreline.

Karen continues to maintain the TCC Gallery garden. She supports the TCC mission by educating others about native plant gardens, which not only prevent erosion, but also require less care, no fertilizer, and are more sustainable, all due to being natural to the area.



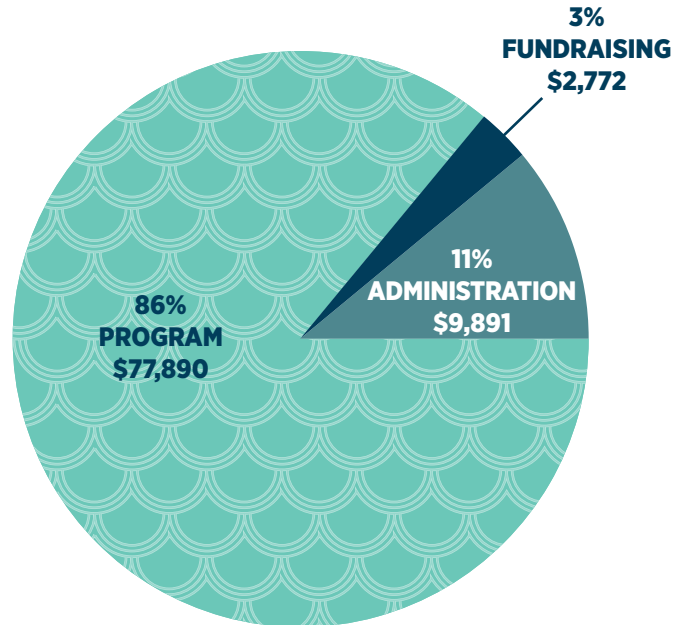
Karen Swanson

## 2022 INCOME



**TOTAL: \$113,152**

## 2022 EXPENSES



**TOTAL: \$90,553**

## Our Generous Supporters:

### GALLERY SPONSORS

Bruce and Nancy Brown  
Family Fund  
Tom and Peg Comfort  
Beth Dole  
Keith Ross and Louise Doud  
Steve and Sallie Foley  
Bruce and Paula Hilby  
Ann Melfi  
Andrew and Trish Narwold  
Gary and Jill Scheitler  
Karen Swanson  
Wendy Wagner  
Bill Weiss

### CAPACITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Alden State Bank  
Dreika Bloom  
Jean Ashby- Ken Burger-  
Ashby Burger Charitable  
Fund  
Bill and Glynis Fenn  
Lisa Franseen

Pat and Sue Kelly  
Sheryl Loeb  
Linda Oxford  
Stephen Reicker-Towsley  
Foundation  
Dan and Laurie Roche-  
Roche Family Fund  
Dan and Eileen  
Sajkowski

### DONATIONS

John Vogel and Kathy  
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Marie Beaupre

William Beaupre  
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Henry and Mary Berger  
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Jerry and Drieka Bloom  
Richard and Judith Blum  
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Buell  
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Comfort  
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Comfort  
Christopher and Julie  
Coulter  
Robert and Jamie Davidson  
Marjorie Decapite  
Rodger Dewey  
Dole Family Foundation  
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William and Sandra Doyle  
Draper Construction  
William Dvorak and Gela  
Boebel  
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Leah Ettema  
Randy and Lori Ettema  
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Steve and Sallie Foley  
Tim and Linda Fox

Michael and Delene Franchi  
Karen Franseen  
Laura Franseen  
Lisa Franseen  
Matthew and Terri Franzen  
John and Valerie Gaylor  
David and Marian Geohegan  
Thomas Gilbert and Marsha  
Smith  
Grace of Alden  
James Grady  
David and Virginia Griffis  
Katie Hagedorn  
Kristine Hallett  
Cathy Harden and Ivan Sias  
Jack and Bonnie Harrington  
Brian Harris  
Michael and Sheila  
Hebenstreit  
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Hickman  
Hilby Family Fund  
John and Jean Hoffner  
Patrick and Stephanie  
Howell  
Craig and Ginger Hupp  
Gerald and Barbara Hurtig  
Kathren Johanson  
Griffith and Ivanka Jordan

## THANK YOU!

Paul Judge  
Charles and Susan Judson  
Joe Kaplan and Christine Williams  
Joel and Nancy Kaufman  
Devin Keast  
Kirby and Nancy Keller  
Patrick and Sue Kelly  
Ron and Bonnie Kershner  
Richard and Janet Knopf  
Tim and Lynne Kohr  
Kevin Kossen, Chicago Title  
Kenneth Kubitschek  
James and Jean Kulig  
Douglas Kulwicki and Mary Elarton  
Diane Ladue  
J.P. Lambert Fund  
Mike Lambert  
Alden State Bank  
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Barbara Lockrey

Sheryl Loeb  
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Whistling Frog Tile Company  
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Kathleen Malone  
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Catherine Marshall  
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Stewart Martin  
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Nancy McCoy  
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Mark and Darlene McMahan  
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Ann Melfi  
Duane and Jill Meyer  
Ronald and Patricia Miller  
Robert and Julie Milliron  
James and Janet Montgomery Jr.  
Dave and Jean Muntz  
Roberta Mylan  
Andrew and Patricia Narwold

David and Heather Nissly  
Robert Nissly  
Gregg and Carolyn Nowfel  
Gene and Sally Nutt  
Sean and Kathleen O'Keefe  
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Claire Scheibner  
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David and Nancy Schepers  
Max and Ann Schwandt  
Paula Shuler and Joel Schaap  
Sollenberger Charitable Fund  
Tove and Kurt Sondergaard  
Geoffrey and Shoshanah Sternlieb  
Judith Strickland  
Sylvia Strike  
Suszan Family Foundation  
Karen Swanson and Ralph Pearlman  
Emilee Syrewicze  
James Templin, Jr.

Edward Theisen  
Jacques and Andrea Thompson  
Scott Thompson  
The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation  
Nan Twiss  
John and Michelle Valuet  
Dave Varga and Barbara Van Pelt  
Robert and Valerie VanDuine  
David Vercammen  
Thomas N. and Kathleen Volle  
Wendy Wagner  
Kent and Suzanne Walker  
Ms. Judith Ward  
Nicole Webb  
Anita Weinraub  
William Weiss, Jr.  
Cynthia Wicker  
Joanna Wisniecka  
Erik and Marcia Wright  
Maureen Yahrmatter  
Barbara Young  
Kathleen Zink  
Mark Zinn



## **Giving in Different Ways**

**Honorarium Recipient**  
Gifts were made in honor of the  
names shown in bold.

**William and Mary Ann Beird**

Jeff and Anna Beird

**Peg Comfort**

Robert and Jennifer Comfort

John and Jean Hoffner

Andrew and Patricia Narwold

**Tom and Peg Comfort**

Rebekah Lynch

**Leon Crossman**

Philip and Leann Bigos

**Trish Narwold**

Geoffrey and Shoshanah Sternlieb

**Sue and Bill Ross and Family**

Val Fimbres and Dave Wilson

**Sue Schuler**

Gary and Lyn Petty

**Michelle Zeeman**

Steve Pier

**Memorial Recipient**  
Gifts were made in memory of the  
names shown in bold.

**Jeff Bacle**

Douglas Kulwicki and Mary Elarton

**Elise Barbara Beaupre**

John and Valerie Beaupre

**Anne Hereadeen and Elise Beaupre**

Marie Beaupre

**Richard Bolhouse**

Katie Hagedorn

Joel and Nancy Kaufman

**David Comfort**

Diane Comfort

**Vi Comfort**

Jack and Bonnie Harrington

**Gwen and Bill Cox**

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Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bartley III

John and Valerie Gaylor

Michael and Sheila Hebenstreit

Gerald and Barbara Hurtig

Kevin Kossen, Chicago Title

Tim and Jeanne Lee

Mark and Darlene McMahan

Jack and Merrellen Robinson

Myrna Sauer

Robert and Valerie VanDuine

Judith Ward, Jill and John Ruby,

Julie and Rob Tellee

Kathleen Zink

**Robert and Mary Ann Edwards**

Thomas and Rita Maines

Al and Lynn Rowley

**James Edwards**

Caryn Edwards

**Doug Ettema**

Linda Brady

Arthur and Catherine Brereton

Leah Ettema

Randy and Lori Ettema

Hannah Featherman

Cathy Harden and Ivan Sias

Diane Ladue

Patrick and Jeanine McGee

Andrew and Patricia Narwold

Gene and Sally Nutt

Sean and Kathleen O'Keefe

Dave Pagnucco

David and Nancy Schepers

Tove and Kurt Sondergaard

John and Michelle Valuet

Anita Weinraub

**Carl Hartmann**

Kirby and Nancy Keller

**Tricia Jones**

Paul Judge

**Rob Killam**

Lisa Franseen

**Jim and Paula Kirkpatrick**

Kirby and Nancy Keller

**Terry Malone**

Kathleen Malone

**George T. McDuffie**

Jerry and Drieka Bloom

**Charles Melfi**

John Buell, Jr. and Cora Buell

**John Melfi**

Joanna Wisniecka

**John and Charles Melfi**

Stephen and Lisa Bain

Terrance and Marlene Caszatt

**George Osterfeld**

Paige Osterfeld

**Suzie Straebel**

Bob and Rita Barron

Gary and Lyn Petty

## Join Us



**The best way to show your love of the Torch Lake watershed is by supporting stewardship through the Torch Conservation Center.**

**Be a part of the solution by getting in touch through: [conservetorch.org/contact](https://conservetorch.org/contact)**

**Or stop by the True Blue Gallery:  
9046 Helena Road, Alden, MI 49612**



We all share a love for Torch Lake and care about its future. All of us want to continue traditions with our family and friends, or start new ones that will last for generations to come. You've contributed your ideas, times, and hard-earned money to the Torch Conservation Center, while spreading the word to others who can also show that they care.

We're hoping that you'll continue to participate and support our efforts, as we continue to care for Torch and educate the community about how best to do that.

Thanks for ***all*** you do!

— Your Board of Directors



P.O. Box 1142  
Bellaire, MI 49615

[contact@conservetorch.org](mailto:contact@conservetorch.org)  
[www.conservetorch.org](http://www.conservetorch.org)

