

NMEAC News

Winter 2010

Northern Michigan
Environmental Action Council

February 2010

22nd EOY Awards and 30th Anniversary Celebration — save the date and join us!

"This is our biggest night of the year," says NMEAC Chairman Greg Reisig. "We are proud of our role as the group that brings everyone in the region together to recognize environmental excellence with awards."

On Friday, April 16, from 6-9 at Traverse City's Park Place Dome, NMEAC will hold the Environmentalist of the Year Celebration and will also be observing our 30th anniversary. Long-time NMEAC supporter, multimedia producer and Circle of Blue

founder J. Carl Ganter will be guest speaker. The evening will begin at 6 pm with a reception featuring local foods. At 7, the program will open with the Great Lakes Bioneers handing out the Bioneer of the Year Award. Then, before Carl Ganter takes the stage, NMEAC executive director Ken Smith will lead a brief 30th Anniversary reminiscence by the audience highlighting various high points in NMEAC's long history.

The highlight will be

the presentation of more than a dozen awards to people and groups who have made extraordinary contributions to environmental protection in our region, state and nation.

The event is open to the public with a \$20 admission at the door. Nominations for awards are being accepted until April 1, 2010.

Please go to nmeac.org to make a nomination, or see below and on page 3 for categories and nomination form.

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At a Glance:

NMEAC's 22nd Annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards & 30th Anniversary Celebration

- Friday, April 16, 2010 at the Park Place Hotel, Dome: 6-9 p.m.
- Keynote speaker: J. Carl Ganter, multimedia producer and Circle of Blue founder.

NMEAC Seeking Nominations for EOY

The Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council is seeking nominations for the 22nd Annual Environmentalist of the Year awards. The winners will be announced at our annual Environmentalist of the Year celebration, to be held on April 16, 2010 at the Park Place Dome in Traverse City.

Awards will honor businesses, organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the protection of Northern Michigan's environment in six categories of service. **See Page 3 for award categories and nomination form. Please consider submitting a nomination electronically at our Website, www.nmeac.org.**

Save the Date:

NMEAC's Biomass Forum & Discussion! Tell your neighbors, friends and elected officials to join us.

- Monday, February 22, 2010 at the Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Ave.
- Speaker: Rachel Smolker, Biofuel Watch

NMEAC's board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

All members and the general public are invited to attend. Meetings are held at the NMEAC office, 3055 Cass Road, Suite 102B. Call 947-5734 for information or directions. In recent months the board has discussed:

1) New board members.

We are seeking new voices and 2-3 people with energy to participate in grassroots environmental advocacy. If this is you, please call Greg Reisig at 231-264-8396. Our all-volunteer board is filled with passion for protecting northern Michigan's unique natural resources. New voices will give us even more energy as we celebrate our 30th anniversary and look to the future.

2) Biomass and Renewable Energy. These are our region's hottest topics. We've formed an Energy Committee to learn more about wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. NMEAC enthusiastically endorses Traverse City Light & Power's goal of using 30% renewable energy by 2020, but feels the push to build a wood-burning biomass plant in or near Traverse City must be discussed thoroughly with the community before a decision is made.

A community forum to discuss this timely topic will be hosted by

NMEAC on Monday, February 22 at the Traverse Area District Library.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will feature guest speaker Rachel Smolker of Biofuel Watch. See our website at www.nmeac.org for new details.

3) Grand Vision. Board member John Nelson and executive director Ken Smith continue to monitor this effort. Other board members serve on the working groups now developing implementation strategies. NMEAC supports all of the major principles of the Grand Vision: transportation, growth & investment, housing, food & farming, energy, and natural resources. Grand Vision is planning a major event scheduled for May 2010. For more information please visit thegrand-vision.org.

4) Take Back the Tap.

NMEAC recently proposed an ordinance to Traverse City commissioners asking them to ban the purchase of plastic water bottles by the City. On December 21, 2009 the city commission voted "...no longer to purchase bottled water for use

in City of Traverse City facilities or at City events."

5) FLOW working group.

As a member of this group, NMEAC supports House Bill 5319 as proposed by Representative Dan Scripps. If passed, the bill will plug the holes in the Great Lakes Compact and end privatization of Great Lakes water. We also support a similar bill proposed at the federal level by Congressman Bart Stupak. Mr. Scripps and Mr. Stupak should be praised for leading the way to protect Great Lakes water as a public trust owned by the people of Michigan. Be sure to let Mr. Scripps and Mr. Stupak know you support their efforts.

Other issues discussed at recent meetings:

Proposed deep-injection wells for disposal of toxic wastes in Whitewater and Acme Townships; ongoing environmental clean-up efforts at Cone Drive on Boardman Lake; continuing problems with the Homestead Resort's spray irrigation septage system; 350.org campaign; wetland restoration at the Elk Rapids Preserve; fundraising ideas for the NMEAC Environmental Legacy Fund; Transition Towns; and updates from Save the Wild UP.

Environmentalist of the Year Award Categories Page 3

Environmentalist of the Year — General and Professional: Provides outstanding leadership in addressing a major environmental issue in the region. Serves as a model of ecological sensitivity for others in the region to follow in daily life and work.

Environmentalist of the Year — Journalism and Communications: Helps the public develop a deeper understanding of the environmental issues facing the region. Takes the initiative in investigative reporting of environmental issues.

Environmentalist of the Year — Public Service or Public Office: Takes the lead in constructing proactive legislation or policies that protect or enhance our environment. Displays integrity and impartiality in dealing with potentially controversial issues relating to the environment.

Environmentalist of the Year — Business: Takes voluntary measures to ensure that their business has the least possible impact on the environment. Acts as a model of ecological sensitivity for its peers and employees.

Environmentalist of the Year — Education: Integrates environmental ethics into the curriculum and daily experience of students. Instills in students a healthy respect for the natural world of which we are all a part. Helps students understand the long-range impact of their lifestyle decisions on ecosystems.

Environmentalist of the Year — Student: Shows leadership in addressing environmental issues in the school and/or community. Shows creativity and initiative in expanding their own and others' understanding of environmental concerns. Acts as a model of ecological sensitivity for peers, teachers, and administrators.

Environmentalist of the Year Nomination Form

Please feel free to copy this form for multiple nominations and mail or fax to NMEAC at 231-947-5734. You may also email your nomination from our Website, www.nmeac.org.

Name of Nominee:

Address:

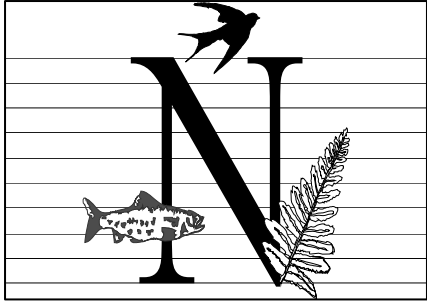
City/State/Zip:

E-mail:

Phone:

Category:

Why? (150 words or less; please list specific accomplishments.)



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NMEAC's Board of Directors:

Greg Reisig, Chair
Ann Rogers
Bill Hansen
Brad Boals
Emmy Lou Cholak
John Nelson
Ken Smith, Executive Director
M'Lynn Hartwell

About NMEAC

NMEAC is the Grand Traverse region's oldest and best known grassroots environmental advocacy group. Founded in 1980, NMEAC's mission is to preserve the natural environment through citizen action and education.