

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COORDINATOR

Some of you might wonder what a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area does in the winter months. Some of the most important work that we do takes place in the winter months. When it comes to terrestrial invasive species management, we spend close to 7 months planning for 4 months of fieldwork. We spend this time finetuning our approach because the window for our work can be small. As a wholly grant-funded organization, we also spend this time of the year applying for future funding, reporting on past funding, crunching numbers, meeting with partners, and continuing our education. This time of year is also when we reflect on our successes and where there is room for improvement.

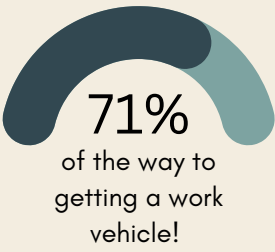
Over this past year through funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program and the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, we have been able to bring on a Restoration Team Lead and an Education and Outreach Education Coordinator. With a team of 3 full-time employees, we are just getting started and are looking forward to what's to come!

In this last year, we have been able to bring back our quarterly newsletter, treat our top 5 invasive species on over 300 properties, release 7,500 galerucella beetles, participated in many outreach events, and imparted invasive species education to many youth.

Moving into winter we will be out in the field. An unfortunate reality here in Northwest Michigan is the potential invasion of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. We are on the Northern edge of the invasion front of this forest pest. Surveying this pest conveniently for us happens during the winter months. This winter our Field Lead and Education and Outreach Specialist will be spending time looking for this pest on both public and private lands. Criteria for these lands are within 5 miles of Lake Michigan and have hemlock trees, if you think you fit these criteria and would like for us to come to inspect your trees for HWA please give us a call.

An important goal of ours in 2022 was to get a work truck for CAKE CISMA. Since 2015 our organization has relied on its staff to use their personal vehicles to carry out CAKE's mission. I am happy to report that we are 71% of the way to our funding goal of

\$35,000 through generous donations from TC Energy, Great Lakes Energy, the Dole Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, and private donors. Help push us over our goal by donating towards our CAKE truck, visit our website for more information.



In 2023 we have some big projects planned. CAKE has been working with Michigan Natural Features Inventory to identify natural communities in our service area that are of high priority to protect and restore from the threat of invasive species. Over the next 2 years, we will be targeting 1000 acres of Fresh Water Dune Swales, Fens, and Rich Conifer Swamps for restoration. These natural communities identified by MNFI are significant in maintaining resiliency to the changing climate.

We hope you can join us in March for our Annual Meeting which will be held in Bellaire Michigan. In the meantime, we will be planning, crunching numbers, and applying for grants to help us accomplish the most we can in that short 4 months of our field season. Please reach out with questions or comments. We love to get feedback on how we are doing and let us know if we can help you somehow.

Lindsey Bona-Eggeman
Program Coordinator

Lindsey releasing Galerucella beetles in Charlevoix County, July 2022



LOOKING AHEAD

- TBD: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Hike with the Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy. Meet at the Fields Preserve Trailhead at 1 pm
- February 11th: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop at the Horton Creek Nature Preserve, 2 pm - 4 pm
- March 4th: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop at the Cedar River Natural Area (behind our office), 10 am - 12 pm
- Dune Invasive Species restoration workday - TBD

OUR STAFF



Wade Foster
Restoration Crew Lead



Katie Gray
Education & Engagement Coordinator

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mark Randolph, Committee Chair - Kalkaska Conservation District, Connor Dennis, Vice Chair - The Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy, Noah Jansen - Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Melissa Zelenak - Antrim Conservation District, Fields Ratliff - Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Amy Lipson - Little Traverse Conservancy

OUR PARTNERS

Antrim Conservation District, Charlevoix Conservation District, Kalkaska Conservation District, Beaver Island Association, Michigan DNR, Elk Skegemog Lake Association, Friends of the Jordan River, Grass River Natural Area, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy, Au Sauble Institute, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Little Traverse Conservancy, Paddle Antrim, Three Lakes Association, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Torch Lake Protection Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, City of Petoskey, Boyne City, Lake Charlevoix Association, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Glacial Hills Natural Area

CAKE CISMA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION:

To protect the natural resources, economy, and human health of Northern Lower Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive species.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP 5 INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENTS

We've been treating the top 5 least wanted invasive species in northern Michigan for the last 4 years. Our top 5 in 2022 were purple loosestrife, knotweeds, black swallow-wort, Asiatic bittersweet, and invasive phragmites. Thanks to funding from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians we treated over **300 sites** free of charge to homeowners.



THE TOOL LENDING LIBRARY

One of our goals this year was to make invasive species management tools available to everyone. With funding from the **Charlevoix County Community Foundation**, we purchased tools for removing invasive plants and replanting native species in their place. The collection is currently housed in the Boyne District Library and we hope to expand to more libraries in our service area next year.

PARTNER RESTORATION PROJECTS

We know that together we do more. From removing invasive buckthorn and replanting native trees with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to pulling garlic mustard with the folks at Glacial Hills & the Walloon Lake Association we logged **171 hours** of collaborative restoration with other local orgs.

BIOCONTROL

In 2022, we released roughly **7,500 galerucella beetles** at heavily infested purple loosestrife sites in our service area. The beetles won't eradicate purple loosestrife, they will reduce loosestrife populations enough to allow native species a chance to compete.



246

sites surveyed for
invasive species



1,078

invasive species mapped and
reported to the Midwest Invasive
Species Network



58.89

acres treated for invasive species



MI PADDLE STEWARDS TRAININGS

We offered 4 MI Paddle Stewards Trainings this summer with Paddle Antrim. Trainings focused on aquatic invasive species and how to properly clean, drain, dry equipment to slow their spread.

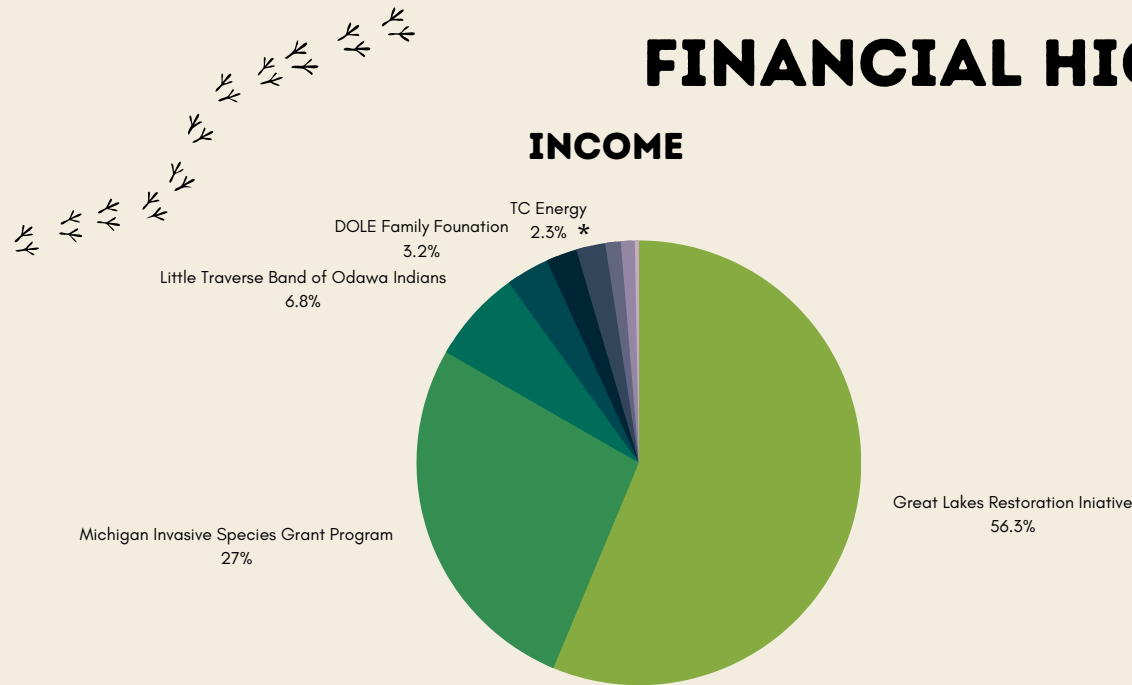


EDUCATION

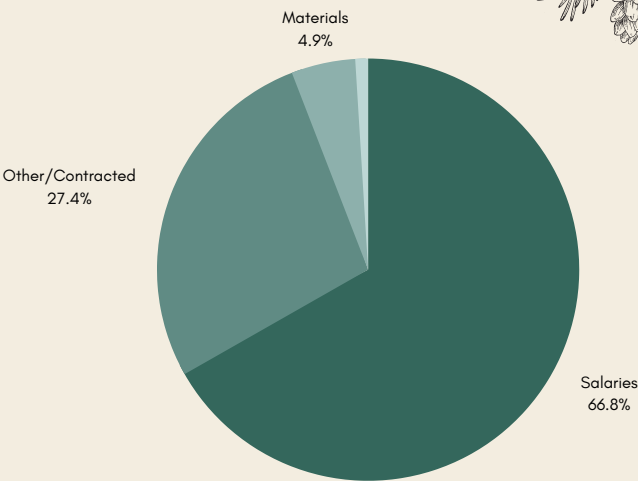
This year we brought back our youth education program and taught lessons at East Jordan Elementary School, Concord Boyne, and Ellsworth Community School. We'll expand the program next year and offer educational opportunities for all ages.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

INCOME



EXPENSES



*Charlevoix County Community Foundation (2.1%), Great Lakes Energy People's Fund (1.1%), Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy (1%), Private donations (.3%)