



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo credit: Michael Ohmart

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I think back on our achievements from this past year, I know we are more successful because of our collaboration and strength when working together. Whether it is cleaning the Jordan River with Antrim Conservation District, bringing quality instructors to teach different classes, or working on messaging for our signs with other non-profits, our work is enhanced through collaboration. Thank you to our great champions, dedicated board, donors, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and friends for all of your support, encouragement, and collaboration. We couldn't do it without you!

- We engaged over 200 paddlers on the water this year, connecting them to the water and sharing ways they can help us continue to protect it.
- Signs were designed for the Chain of Lakes Water Trail emphasizing a variety of topics so paddlers and other visitors to our waters can enjoy the water safely and understand its importance all season.
- We were honored to be Northern Michigan's first water trail designated by the State of Michigan.

2019 is shaping up to be another exciting year. We will continue to emphasize stewardship of our waterways including a new program to educate paddlers to identify and report aquatic invasive species. We will continue to make additional improvements to create a safe and enjoyable adventure for all paddlers on the Chain of Lakes Water Trail.

I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us in protecting our lakes/streams and enjoying them in a fun and safe way. I hope to see you out on the water or at an event this year as we continue to protect our waters by connecting people to them.

*Deana*

Deana Jerdee, Executive Director

## PADDLE ANTRIM

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### *Executive Director*

Deana Jerdee

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**ANTRIM, CHARLEVOIX,  
GRAND TRAVERSE  
AND KALKASKA COUNTIES**

### Mission

Paddle Antrim protects our water resources by using paddle sports to connect people to our waterways. Through stewardship, education, improved water trail access, and promotion of our waterways we will increase water resources protection and enhance the economic vitality of the region.

## CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL

The Chain of Lakes Water Trail is a collaboration and we are honored to lead the development. We now have over 80 miles of water trail segments to explore and 81 points of access. Thank you to the 17 access site owners for their support as well as the financial support and input from our many donors, grantors, chambers, local stewardship organizations, lake associations and friends.

### STATE DESIGNATED WATER TRAIL

In December, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources designated the Chain of Lakes Water Trail as one of the first eight state-designated water trails, the only water trail designated in Northern Michigan. It is an honor to be recognized for our hard work and dedication to making the Chain of Lakes a premier water trail.

### WATER TRAIL SIGNAGE

Signage is a critical piece of the water trail experience. Thanks to the generous support of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, and Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation we have designed a signage system for the Chain of Lakes Water Trail. This system includes signage along roads to assist with getting to main access sites, signage at the water's edge of each access site along with kiosks to provide additional information. Kiosks will include the information needed to make paddling decisions – access site locations, distances, level of difficulty, and amenities available. They will also be used to share other important information with paddlers and the public. Topics such as paddler safety, stewardship, cultural/historical information, protection of native plants/animals and more will be included.

### NEXT STEPS

Our next steps will be to install signage at all access site, make information more readily available including a waterproof guide and promote our great asset and communities.



*Examples of the water trail signage which will be placed at access sites along the Chain of Lakes Water Trail*

## PADDLING CLASSES AND EVENTS

### PADDLE ANTRIM FESTIVAL

We welcomed 135 paddlers to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Paddle Antrim Festival in September. With three days of community events and two days of paddling, our communities, sponsors, and volunteers help make this great event such a success!

From relaxed paddlers choosing to journey the first 7-9 miles, to the advanced paddlers going all 42 miles over two days, we love the diversity of paddlers that join us. We made significant changes to our rules in 2018 to ensure a safe event and expand the types of paddle crafts allowed. We are making a few additional changes in 2019 for safety and also to expand registration to include paddle boards. Please make sure to review the rules when you register, which begins in May, and join us September 12-14, 2019!

### JORDAN RIVER RAFT TRIP

While flatwater lakes encompass the majority of the paddling opportunities in our region, we do have some wonderful rivers to explore. We had a great time rafting with Jordan Valley Outfitters down the Jordan River this fall, offering an opportunity for all ages to safely experience this wild and scenic river.

### CLASSES

We firmly believe that as we encourage paddlers to experience our waters, we should be active in promoting use in a safe way. In 2018 we hosted 10 different classes, expanding our offerings this past year to include youth classes and paddle boarding. Consider joining us this season!



*"The lesson was presented in a progression that developed confidence and skill development... Our grandchildren were excited with the lesson and eager to take another one. We highly recommend the class!" Gene and Victoria Utko*



## STEWARDSHIP

### RIPPLE EFFECT MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

We continue to dedicate funds earned through the Paddle Antrim Festival to our Ripple Effect Mini Grant Program for local projects that align with our mission. In the past four years we have awarded over \$21,000 to stewardship, accessibility, and education projects in our region. In 2018 we supported three projects. We provided funding to the Village of Bellaire for the design of a universal access kayak launch at Richardi Park. We funded the purchase of two 800 mHz radios for Antrim County. These radios will be used for many activities including water related trainings for our emergency responders and events on the water like our Paddle Antrim Festival. We also provided funding for the design and installation of new interpretive panels for the Grass River Natural Area's Nature Center. We appreciate this opportunity to help other important local projects and look forward to seeing what kind of applications 2019 brings!

### JORDAN RIVER CLEANUP

We were proud to partner with Antrim Conservation District and others for a cleanup along the Jordan River in July. With 29 volunteers, over two cubic yards of trash was removed along 11 miles of river.

### MOBILE BOAT WASH

To emphasize the importance of cleaning boats/gear before entry into a new waterway, we invited Benzie Conservation District to bring their mobile boat wash unit to the Paddle Antrim Festival. All boats were verified clean or washed before entering the Upper Chain and again before entering the Lower Chain to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. CAKE-CISMA was on hand to provide additional information to paddlers.

*Jane Perrino of the Benzie Conservation District washing kayaks and canoes at the 2018 Paddle Antrim Festival to remove aquatic invasive species.*



## 2019 PADDLE SCHEDULE

### JUNE:

14<sup>th</sup> Community Paddle – Ellsworth  
19<sup>th</sup> Intro to Kayaking  
27<sup>th</sup> Kids Kayaking

### JULY:

1<sup>st</sup> Community Paddle - Central Lake  
2<sup>nd</sup> Intro to Paddle boarding  
10<sup>th</sup> Intro to Kayaking  
15<sup>th</sup> Community Paddle – Kewadin  
24<sup>th</sup> Intro to Paddle boarding, Intro to Kayaking  
25<sup>th</sup> Kids Kayaking  
27<sup>th</sup> Family Intro to Kayaking  
29<sup>th</sup> Invasive Species Training – Rapid City  
31<sup>st</sup> Community Paddle – Elk Rapids

### AUGUST:

13<sup>th</sup> Kayak Rescues Class  
14<sup>th</sup> Community Paddle – Bellaire  
21<sup>st</sup> Intro to Kayaking & Kids Kayaking  
28<sup>th</sup> Community Paddle – Grass River

### SEPTEMBER:

12-14<sup>th</sup> – Paddle Antrim Festival

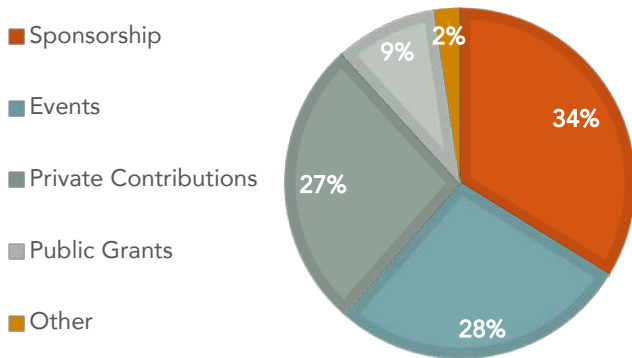
Stay tuned for other classes and events this year. If there is another class you are interested in, let us know!

Follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or online at: [www.paddleantrim.com](http://www.paddleantrim.com)

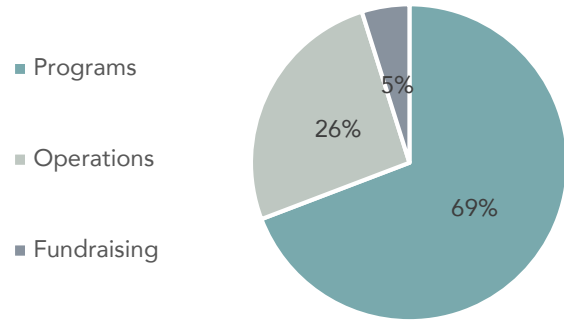
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## 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

### 2018 REVENUES



### 2018 EXPENSES



#### 2018 REVENUES

SPONSORSHIPS	\$19,500
EVENT REVENUE	\$15,981
PRIVATE DONATIONS	\$15,468
PUBLIC GRANTS	\$5,400
OTHER	\$1,390
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$57,739</b>

#### 2018 EXPENSES

PROGRAMS	\$44,872
OPERATIONS	\$16,814
FUNDRAISING	\$3,151
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$64,842</b>

#### NET ASSETS

BEGINNING	\$47,544
CHANGE	- \$7,103
<b>TEMP RESTRICTED</b>	<b>\$50,450</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$90,891</b>

## DONORS, SPONSORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

### THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE

#### SUSTAINERS CIRCLE (GIFTS OF \$1,000+)

Elk Skegemog Lakes Association  
Community Foundation Antrim  
Endowment  
Community Foundation FOCUS  
Fund Endowment  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and  
Chippewa Indians  
Jim and Diana Huckle  
Thomas Irwin  
Frederick and Barbara Malpass  
Rotary Charities of Traverse City  
Village of Elk Rapids

#### GIFTS OF \$500 - \$999

Anonymous

Frank and Jean Marie Moffa  
Mark Neal and Laura Murphy  
Three Lakes Association

#### GIFTS OF \$250 - \$499

Gary and Mary Chenoweth  
Johanna Cressy  
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James Quigel

#### GIFTS OF \$100 - \$249

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George and Suzann Grazul  
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Thank you to all our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. If you see an error or would like to be recognized differently, please contact us at 231-492-0171

Alan and Rose Mikesell  
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(gifts made in honor of bolded name)

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 Image 360  
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 Mammoth Distilling  
 Jim Massaroni  
 Northern Monument  
 Ruthann's Gourmet Bakery  
 Short's Brewing Company



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Antrim County RACES  
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Bellaire Chamber  
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Benzie Conservation  
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Village of Ellsworth

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Photo Credit Art Zelenak

## Congratulations to the 2018 Paddle Antrim Festival Hall of Fame Paddlers who paddled all 42 miles in two days!

Avri Beach	LouAnne Blount	Christina Bohnhoff	Tim Bohnhoff	Gary Buczkowski
Sherry Burns	Amber Clouse	Bryan Davies	Chris Davies	Dave Deibel
Jonathon Deibel	Jeff Farida	Cydnee Faul	Linda Gamage	Paul Gelderblom
Debbie Gelderblom	Ken Hall	William Helsinger	Stacy Hibiske	Devin Hotchkiss
Paul Howard	Danny Lamkin	William Levinson	Andrew Loree	Tom Luidens
Suzy McCain	Shannon Meeder	Frank Moffa	Margaret Mountain	Laura Murphy
Monte Oberlee	Daniel Ogren	William Ogren	Mike Ohmart	Brenda Pams
Cathy Pauly	John Pearson	Stephen Plaisted	James Quigel	Shawn Quigel
Kevin Rathke	John Rogers	Greg Sherman	Scott Signor	Renata Wilson
Mary Wise	Julie Witherspoon	Russ Witherspoon	Nancy Zelenak	