



# Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2006

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### **Volunteers needed to explore and protect the streams of northern Michigan!**

The tip of the northern Lower Peninsula contains more than 2500 miles of streams, including a number of amazing "blue ribbon" trout streams such as the Pigeon and Boyne Rivers. To help monitor and therefore, protect these beautiful waterways, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is looking for volunteers.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council added a Volunteer Stream Monitoring program to its repertoire of water quality monitoring programs last year. Volunteer stream monitors collect aquatic insects, snails, crustaceans and other small invertebrates, which are used as bio-indicators to gauge the health of a stream. The program will resume in May. You can participate in the program regardless of where you live. No experience is required, only a desire to experience first-hand the magnificent stream ecosystems of northern Michigan. Interested individuals should contact Kevin Cronk at 231-347-1181, ext. 109 or by email at [kevin@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:kevin@watershedcouncil.org).

The public is also invited to Join Kevin, Monitoring and Research Coordinator from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, on a journey "below the surface" to see and learn to identify the large variety of aquatic macroinvertebrates that inhabit the Natural Area at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey.

Beyond the eye-catching waterfowl, amphibians, and fish, a great diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates including aquatic insects, crustaceans and other small critters thrive in the abundant streams, ponds and wetlands of the NCMC Natural Area. The 2 hour journey begins at the Natural Area entrance at 10:00 a.m. on April 22nd. Hiking is involved and it may still be cold, so dress appropriately. Please RSVP with Kevin at 231-347-1181, ext. 109.

**About Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council:** *Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council speaks for our members including full-time and seasonal residents, lake associations, and businesses. We work to maintain the environmental integrity and economic and aesthetic values of lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water in Northern Michigan, as well as statewide and throughout the Great Lakes Basin. As the lead organization for water resources protection in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties, the Watershed Council is working to preserve the heritage of Northern Michigan – a tradition built around our magnificent waters.*