

# The Power of Partnering

Superior Watershed Partnership Chosen 2020 Lake Superior Magazine Achievement Award Winner



SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

**“If the Superior Watershed Partnership model teaches anything, I truly believe it is the power of local,”** says Carl Lindquist, executive director of the SWP. “The power of relying on local partners, of relying on each other, and doing whatever you can to help, where you are.”

That attitude sums up nicely the 21-year existence of the Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy in Marquette and also describes one of the many reasons the organization has been chosen as recipient of the 2020 *Lake Superior Magazine* Achievement Award.

2020 Lake Superior Magazine  
**Achievement Award**

SWP coordinates or cooperates in projects on all four Lake Superior shores and on Lakes Michigan and Huron. It has worked with five Indigenous nations, universities, religious organizations, plus local, state, federal and Canadian partners. The partnership has projects for Great Lakes habitat protection and restoration, community pollution prevention, climate change adaptation planning and implementation, invasive species removal and prevention, water quality and stormwater management, native plant restoration, land protection, youth programs and public education, and Upper Peninsula community assistance, including assisting low-income families with energy bills, solar energy options and energy conservation. Its seasonal workers in the Great Lakes Conservation Corps have helped in major undertakings, such as cleaning up after the 2019 Father’s Day flood in Houghton, and this year aided projects idled by COVID.



Each year since 1994, *Lake Superior Magazine* honors an organization or individual for significantly contributing to the well-being of Lake Superior and its people. The announcement of this year’s winner comes in the current October/November issue. Editor Konnie LeMay says the Superior Watershed Partnership was an easy choice for the honor. “We love its broad reaching, solution-finding focus and its willingness to partner and protect the environment while acknowledging the economic and social needs of the Big Lake’s residents. It approaches problems by looking for practical solutions, which is why it so frequently succeeds in its goals.” She adds, “We also appreciate that although it is solidly Upper Peninsula-based, SWP, like Lake Superior Magazine itself, looks at the watershed as a broader neighborhood rather than narrowly focusing only on one or another of its four shores.”

Lindquist also echoes that sentiment. “We have amazing resources here in the Lake Superior neighborhood; the traditional knowledge of Native American tribes and First Nations, hard-working non-profits, top-notch universities, resilient coastal communities and amazing people that would do just about anything to help protect the Big Lake. That includes both locals and visitors. Some of the best volunteers we have are visitors who will happily endure the sweatiest, muddiest, buggiest restoration work to help protect Lake Superior. And that includes kids. It’s truly inspiring.”



Read the full *Lake Superior Magazine* story “The Practical Partner: SWP Delivers the Solutions” and see the list of past Achievement Award winners at [www.LakeSuperior.com](http://www.LakeSuperior.com) or visit the SWP website at [superiorwatersheds.org](http://superiorwatersheds.org).

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