

THREE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Serving Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake and Torch Lake in Antrim County, Michigan



Looking Forward to the

Next School Year

By Patricia Roush
Education Chairman

2018-2019

Kalkaska Public Schools

Brett Bontrager

Mr. Bontrager is the director of a non-profit program called SEEDS After School, that operates in partnership with the Rapid City Elementary. He says, "Our mission is to provide academic and cultural enrichment to at-risk students in the schools we partner with. Our after school [and summer programs] focus on environmental and ecological learning." This mission is in line with that of TLA.

Mr. Bontrager was granted, from SEOP, 3 water testing dip nets for testing in the "Rapid River that flows just out in back of our school. I have, at this point, multiple

testing kits and 10 pair of child sized waders. The last thing we need to acquire are the nets. Once we have a complete set up, I could also facilitate water testing for other classes in our district at my host site."

Mr. Bontrager also requested funding for 3 field trips; two to Grass River Natural Area for 30-35 K-5th graders from Rapid City Elementary. "In the summer, we take a series of local field trips. This year our trip fees funding is tight, however we have a transportation budget. Grass River offers superb ecological learning offerings that would fit exactly with our focus. We would use this as a great way to compare Finch Creek findings to Rapid River findings." The second trip will be in the fall.

The third field trip is the new installation at the Denno's Museum in Traverse City, "Monsterfish: In Search of the Last River Giants." This exhibition is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Total cost: \$884