

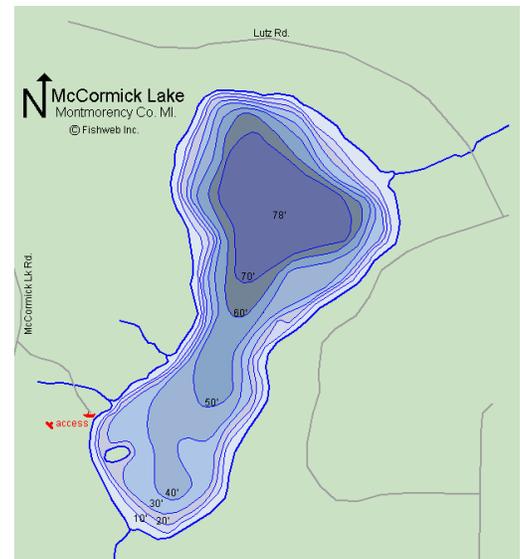


OUR RIVER: OUR FUTURE

GEOGRAPHY OF THE THUNDER BAY WATERSHED - THE HEADWATERS - BY SUSAN SZCZUKOWSKI

Growing up in Alpena, I camped, canoed, and picnicked along the Thunder Bay River (TBR) and its branches. During these excursions, I never considered where the river originates. As a member of the Thunder Bay River Center Board, it occurred to me that I should know something about the headwaters of this river.

In Southwestern Montmorency County, the Stanniger and Sheridan creeks form the upper headwaters of the TBR. These creeks are prime cold-water habitat. They flow into McCormick Lake just west of Atlanta. This lake is 100 acres in size, and 78 feet at its deepest point. From McCormick Lake, elevation 940 feet above sea level, the Thunder Bay flows 75 miles to its confluence with Lake Huron. This confluence is 577 feet above sea level. The outflow from McCormick Lake, seen below in the NE corner, is the designated upstream boundary of the TBR.



Most of the headwaters of the TBR run through undeveloped and forested land. This results in this stretch of the river being blessed with prime cold-water fisheries as well as an abundance of wildlife habitat. State and private hunting land surround the headwater tributaries.

After leaving McCormick Lake, the TBR flows about 5 miles to Lake 15, and is cool-to cold water habitat. Lake 15 is an 89 acre lake, 55 feet at its deepest point.

HOW TO ENJOY THIS AREA?

- Driving around this area to visit the headwaters, especially Scenic Route 3, is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.
- It could also be a pleasurable bike ride.
- I recommend finishing off the day by enjoying ice cream at Susan's Roadside Diner in Atlanta.

The author is an Executive Committee Member for the Thunder Bay River Center. To receive further information, volunteer, or make a donation, go to ["thunderbayrivercenter.org"](http://thunderbayrivercenter.org).



SUPPORT THUNDER BAY RIVER CENTER USING THE AMAZON SMILE LINK ABOVE

Judy's Note:

The October newsletter features the first article on the Thunder Bay River Watershed written by a board member, Susan Szczukowski. Each edition is planned to have an article written by a different board member that explores an interesting scene in the watershed. We'd love your comments.

Please help by donating to this year's Giving Tuesday event. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 in support of the Thunder Bay River Center.

Giving Tuesday is December 1, 2020



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