



# Huron River Report

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Winter 2011

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## The Huron on Ice

Three ways to get outside and have fun this winter

Freezing temperatures, blowing snow and less daylight leave some of us yearning to cozy up in front of a roaring fire – but not all of us. **In this article, three intrepid watershed residents share their favorite outdoor activities for when the snow flies.** Try one of these activities this winter and you'll find an entirely fresh way to experience the Huron. Then you can put the logs on the fire.

### WINTER KAYAKING

Kayaking the Huron is a popular way to spend a pleasant summer day. It can also be a wonderful way to spend a winter day. The river is quiet in the winter and has a definite away-from-it-all feeling you don't get in summer's crowds. Add in a gentle snowfall and it becomes otherworldly, hushed, and almost magical, with black water, white banks, gray trees, and the occasional touch of green from a spruce or cedar. Wildlife is easy to see, especially things such as mink that are

seldom observed in summer's thick cover. When I paddle in the winter, I see the same stretches of river I enjoy in summer, but with new eyes. The changes help me understand the dynamics of the river and the land around it, adding another entire dimension to my appreciation of the Huron.

Of course kayaking safely in winter is not the carefree bumble down the lazy stream that boaters in 90-degree heat enjoy! We whitewater paddlers like to joke about the "white" water in the form of snowflakes, but we're serious about the right gear and the right care. We're given to antics like Eskimo rolls,

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Half the fun of winter kayaking is finding creative ways to enter the river! photo: L. Green

## Sell Your Skis, but Stock up on Snow Shovels?

Scenarios of winter climate change in the watershed

*Think of what you've heard about future climate scenarios for Michigan and you may imagine suffering through droughts and 100-degree summer days. While hotter and drier may be a reality in the summer months, it is also important to realize how the climate is changing in winter. In fact, the changes scientists project are even more dramatic for the winter than the summer.*

### WARMER TEMPERATURES IN WINTER MEAN MORE PRECIPITATION

Public perception is that climate change means higher temperatures, and therefore,

logically, less snow. It may surprise some to learn that in Michigan, scientists expect snowier and wetter winters and springs in some areas, while drier in other areas. Scientists project that many parts of the region will receive more lake effect snow as decreased ice cover and increased temperatures cause more evaporation from Lake Michigan. The frequency of extreme events is also expected to increase resulting in heavier snow and rain. However, the combination of higher temperatures and heavier snowfalls means faster and more frequent snowmelts. So while this region may receive more

snow, it is not going to stick around as long. Michiganders may be in for more snow shoveling, but less skiing and other winter recreation (see "The Huron on Ice" article, above). The Union of Concerned Scientists projects that this region could lose between one-quarter and one-half of its snow covered days by the end of the century.

Weather patterns are highly variable. It is impossible to point to a single weather event or single year and call it "climate

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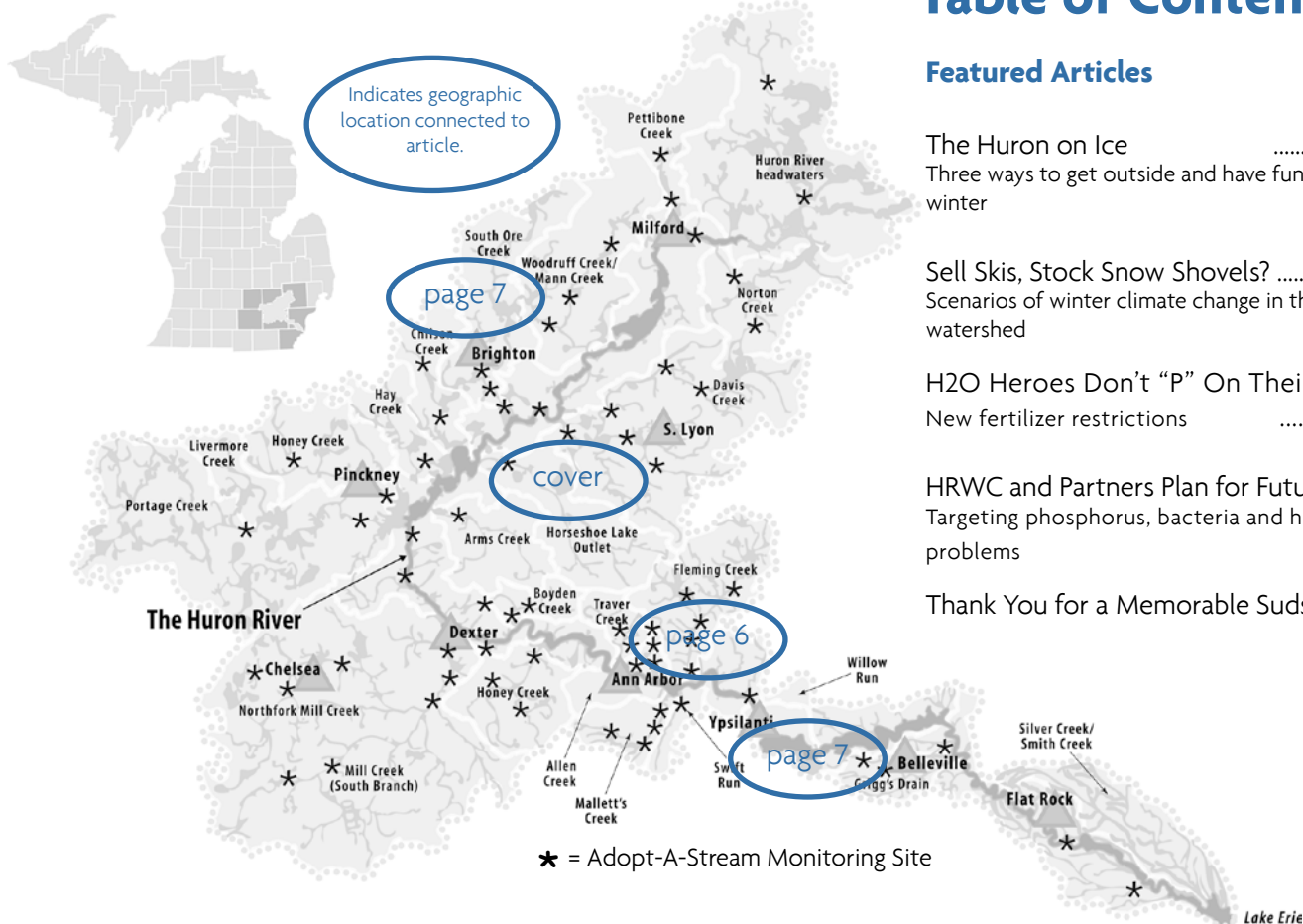
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## Events

Thursday, Dec. 15, 5:30 PM  
**HRWC Executive Committee**  
New Center, Ann Arbor  
contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

Thursday, Jan. 26, 5:30 PM  
**HRWC Board Meeting**  
New Center, Ann Arbor  
contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

Saturday, Jan. 28  
Start at 10:30 AM or at NOON  
**Stonefly Search**  
Meet at New Center, Ann Arbor,  
then travel to locations  
throughout the watershed.  
contact: jfrenzel@hrwc.org

More events and updates on the  
web at: [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org)

HRWC offices are located at the  
NEW Center, 1100 N. Main Street in  
Ann Arbor. Call (734) 769-5123 or visit  
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Still looking  
for that special  
holiday gift?

Give the gift of clean water  
and share your love of nature

Your loved ones will take pride in knowing that they are helping to protect a place of wonder and beauty that enriches our lives, and the plants and wildlife that depend on it. When you give a gift of **\$40 or more** your gift includes:

- Special HRWC gift card and membership materials including our 2012 calendar.
- Gift package of Arbor Teas' special Holiday blend.



Online at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org) or Margaret Smith at 734-769-5123 ext 605

# The Huron on Ice

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surfing waves, doing tailstands and flips, and our drysuits keep us warm and dry while soaking in icewater. Drysuits are overkill for the recreational boater who doesn't plan to be underwater, but wool or synthetics that remain warm when wet are a necessity, and waterproof pants make a big difference when the paddle drips into your lap. A spare set of dry warm clothing in a waterproof drysack is a necessity in case of upset. It's also important to go with others; cold water can disorient a swimmer quickly, so friends close by can be lifesavers. And don't just have your PFD (life jacket) along - have it on!

Winter kayaking isn't for everyone. It's an activity for experienced paddlers, who can reliably maneuver to avoid the strainers, ice shelves, and other obstacles that can flip boats. For those who can and do, winter kayaking opens up a whole new river on our own familiar Huron.

*Lee Green, M.D., is a Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan and HRWC member and volunteer since 1998.*



*Craig Kivi and friends enjoy ice fishing. The thirty-nine inch northern pike, above, was a memorable catch!*

photos: C. Kivi

## POND HOCKEY

When the water finally freezes in Michigan, pond hockey players and fans take to the ice on local lakes. This is certainly the case on Whitmore Lake, where the Michigan Pond Hockey Classic will celebrate its fifth year on January 13-15, 2012. It is the largest 4-on-4 pond hockey tournament in Lower Michigan and continues to grow. Last year's event drew 700 players.

Smaller, spontaneous pond hockey games among friends crop up on local lakes, too. Shoveling the snow off of the ice is all that stands between a passionate ice hockey player and the open ice for a game of pond hockey. Pond hockey takes you back to childhood memories of playing on backyard rinks and frozen ponds, placing you in a wonderful outdoor atmosphere to beat the winter blues.

For more information about the Classic, visit [www.michiganpondhockey.com](http://www.michiganpondhockey.com).

*Olivia Gentile is Director of Communications and PR for the Whitmore Lake Pond Hockey Classic.*



## ICE FISHING

The flowing Huron River does not fish well during the winter months, but the large natural lakes and impoundments caused by dams through Pinckney, Dexter, and Ann Arbor can provide a great fishing adventure on the ice. Of course, it is essential to verify safe ice, especially anywhere near river current. One should assume there is never safe ice over or near strong current on the Huron. Never.

By using tested techniques, dressing very specifically for the cold, and moving around the lake to locate fish, you can have plenty of fun catching lots of tasty fish this time of year. The easiest fish to catch in the winter are panfish such as Bluegill, Crappie, and Sunfish. The state limit is 25 fish per day, which is quite possible, though most people stop short of taking that many fish home, always leaving some for others. Bring your state fishing license, too, since they are required year-round.

Larger fish such as northern pike and walleye can be caught this time of year as well, and some can be huge. I personally witnessed a 39-inch northern pike caught last year - now that's a fish of a lifetime - almost 4 feet long and caught through the ice on one of the Huron's lakes! Whether a bunch of panfish or a trophy fish through the ice interests you, understand that gone are the days of "sitting on a bucket" in one place, poorly dressed, not catching fish and getting cold. It's just a matter of being informed and prepared. With proper safety practices, clothing, and technique, anyone can enjoy being in the outdoors catching fish during our long Michigan winter on the Huron River lakes and impoundments. Get prepared and try it!

*Craig Kivi is a lake property real estate agent and licensed fishing guide who has boated, fished, and enjoyed the Portage Chain of Lakes and Huron River for 53 years.*

— compiled by **Elizabeth Riggs**



# Sell Your Skis, but Stock up on Snow Shovels?

continued from cover

change.” However, overall trends indicate increasing precipitation of both snow and rain. In the last decade, five winters are among the top ten wettest winters going back to 1950, and the winter of 2008 was the wettest. Simultaneously, with the exception of a cold winter in 2010, all of our Michigan winters in the last 15 years have been warmer than the winters spanning from 1960 to 1995. In recent memory, this region has experienced large snowfalls followed by warm periods that result in swollen and flooding rivers and wetlands, and many of us have had to deal with flooded basements.

## HOW DOES THE EXTRA PRECIPITATION AFFECT RIVERS?

Extra precipitation will certainly result in higher flows in rivers and streams, but the pattern of when this occurs is important, too. Until recently, sub-freezing periods lasted longer. Surface waters on lakes and slower river sections were iced over through much of the winter, and additional water was locked up in snow pack. The projected increase in freeze-thaw frequency could result in more winter floods, and, with less water remaining in ice and snow pack, there could be lower spring and summer flows. Other scenarios suggest that the projected increased frequency of large rain storms will somewhat balance the lack

of water from snow and ice pack, so the effect on area stream summer flow levels is uncertain, and probably regionally and annually variable. Flooding will likely be spread out across the year, rather than focused in the spring, and frequency of extreme events is likely to increase. More frequent extreme events will result in more damage to fish habitat. Increases in winter rains and snowmelts can generate damaging floods that scour streambeds, killing eggs, larvae, and adult fish that cannot find suitable refuge.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR LAKES?

Ice-out dates for lakes (the date when ice cover has largely melted) have been recorded for a long time, well before climate change entered scientific dialogue. It is useful to know when to stop skating, skiing, and walking on ice, when to pull the ice shanty off, when the boat can safely be placed on the lake, and when Great Lakes shipping channels open back up again. Some lakes have data records going back 100 years or more. These show that ice-out dates on lakes have been happening



*What does decreasing snow and ice cover mean for our watershed?* photo: S. Brown

earlier. A New England study indicates that ice-out dates have moved between 9 and 16 days earlier for five lakes with extremely long data records (100+ years). In the Midwest, lakes are losing their ice two to three weeks earlier, on average, than they did 100 years ago.

Ice-out is a good measure of cumulative climate effects because it does not respond solely to specific weather events. A single warm day or a single cold one is not enough to alter a lake's ice status. Rather, ice conditions are related to the weather conditions on the whole throughout the winter. Earlier ice-out would be related to warmer temperatures throughout the winter, more rain, and decreased snow cover (which serves to insulate the ice).

Earlier ice-out has a number of consequences. First, it leads to lower lake levels. Ice functions like a large tarp, preventing evaporation. Without ice cover, the lake's surface is exposed and evaporation begins. Depending on warm-weather patterns, if the evaporated water does not return as increased rain frequency, there will be less water in lakes and streams. Second, lake stratification may happen more quickly, especially in lakes less than 30 feet deep. This means the water is isolated at various levels, somewhat like a layered cake, and the water is not mixing. Coupled with greater algae productivity, the bottom stratification level will be driven into an anoxic (zero oxygen) state more quickly.

*continued on next page*



*Ice is forming later and melting sooner on our rivers. Earlier ice-out dates on lakes can mean faster thermal stratification and increased chances of eutrophication, anoxia, and fish kills.* photo: J. Lloyd

# Sell Your Skis, but Stock up on Snow Shovels?

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This condition is a mixed bag for fish. The cool, oxygen-rich bottom water is the most appealing place to hang out in the summer months. But as the bottom water loses its oxygen, the fish lose their preferred habitat. The increased length of anoxia can lead to a vicious cycle with increased internal phosphorus loading that happens in anoxic conditions. This leads to an increased likelihood of algal blooms, eutrophication, and fish kills. Such lakes will have a longer growing season, and better food availability to benefit warm-water species of fish. Cold-water species will be stressed, though, and the overall effect may be a net loss in species diversity.

## WHAT NOW?

In addition to the climate impacts discussed here, this year there is a *La Nina* event occurring in the Pacific Ocean, which brings colder than average winter air temperatures and more snow to the continental US. Expect a cold and wet winter in 2012!

**Take action now to prevent further climate change and adapt to the projected changes that are already imminent.** Energy policies at local, state and federal levels are required to reduce greenhouse gases and prevent even more catastrophic consequences. In the meantime, important steps include the preservation of floodplains and natural areas for the absorption of rain and snowmelt, compact development designed with minimal impervious surfaces, and adjustments to how communities handle excess stormwater.

**Individual actions and choices can impact future climate conditions.** Don't wait! Lead by example with these ideas, or go to [www.hrwc.org/our-work/programs/saving-water-saves-energy/](http://www.hrwc.org/our-work/programs/saving-water-saves-energy/) for more:

- 1.) Practice conservative driving (slow starts and stops; optimal speed limits, etc.) for proven fuel savings, regardless of engine type (gas, flex fuel, electric or hybrid).
- 2.) Keep home temperatures comfortable, yet reasonable. In winter, put on a

sweater and turn down the thermostat for a savings of 2% per degree. In summer, keep air-conditioning set at 79 degrees, rather than the typical 72, and save 3% per degree for a 21% reduction in energy consumption.

3.) Turn out the lights and unplug charging devices when not in use, and use a power strip to turn off electronics when not in use (95% of the power used by a cell phone charger is wasted; and nearly 75% of all electricity used to power electronics is consumed by products that are switched off. *source: US Department of Energy*)

To learn more ways to adapt to climate change, check out HRWC's Winter 2009 *Huron River Report* special climate change issue at [www.hrwc.org/publications/newsletters/](http://www.hrwc.org/publications/newsletters/). Another helpful resource is [www.gusacclimate.org](http://www.gusacclimate.org).

— Ric Lawson and Paul Steen

Contact [psteen@hrwc.org](mailto:psteen@hrwc.org) for a list of references used in this article.

**Thank you to the Brewers who made the great artisan beers and to all of our guests for the great success of the first annual Brew for the River.** Thanks to all of you HRWC raised \$3000 for our stewardship programs. The Brew events were a great opportunity for HRWC staff to meet one on one with watershed residents and talk about the importance of clean water and water conservation in our watershed.

Congratulations to our Brew Passport Winners – who came to all five events - Brianna Kulacki and William Copenhagen

See you next year! Cheers!



Brewers/L to R Oliver Roberts (Wolverine), Duncan Williams(Grizzly) Ron Jefferies (Jolly) Tim Schmidt (Blue Tractor) Dan Peron and Bill Gerds (Arbor/Corner)



Brianna Kulacki



William Copenhagen



# H2O Heroes Don't "P" On Their Lawns

Michigan protects water with new fertilizer restrictions

State-wide restrictions on the use of phosphorus fertilizer take effect January 1, 2012. The new law states that "a person shall not apply to turf a fertilizer labeled as containing the plant nutrient available phosphate."

For folks who are applying fertilizer to their lawns, there are two exceptions:

(1) if a soil test indicates that the level of available phosphate is deficient to support healthy turf grass growth or establishment; or (2) if new turf is being established using seed or sod and it is the first growing season.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY KIND OF FERTILIZER

(1) Keep it at least 15 feet away from surface water unless there's a 10 foot continuous native plant buffer between the turf and the surface water; or unless a spreader guard, deflector shield or drop spreader is used and the fertilizer is kept more than 3 feet away from surface water.

(2) Do not clean the spreader so that waste water washes into waters of the state or a stormdrain.

(3) Promptly sweep up any fertilizer that has spilled on an impervious surface and apply it or return it to an appropriate container.

(4) Do not apply any fertilizer to turf if the soil is frozen or saturated with water.

Local units of government may maintain and enforce ordinances that were in effect before December 2010. (In the Huron River watershed this includes the following local ordinances: cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti; Orchard Lake Village; and the townships of Ypsilanti, Pittsfield, Hamburg, Commerce, and West Bloomfield.) Residents should check for additional restrictions in their community's ordinance.

There have already been a couple of clarifying amendments proposed that replace the term "organic manure" with "natural fertilizer" in the law. Organic manure/natural fertilizer can be applied at a rate of not more than 0.25 pounds of phosphorus (replaced by the term "available phosphate" if the amendment passes) per 1,000 square feet at any one time.



HRWC is participating in a state-wide workgroup formed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture that is developing outreach materials for the public. Materials will include a website where all phosphorus fertilizer-related information, including soil testing guidelines, can be easily accessed, as well as public point-of-sale materials that recommend best practices. Stay tuned to [www.hrwc.org/take-action](http://www.hrwc.org/take-action) for lawn care tips and links to the new materials.

— Pam Labadie

## It Takes Just Ten Minutes...

Please take our online Watershed Community Survey

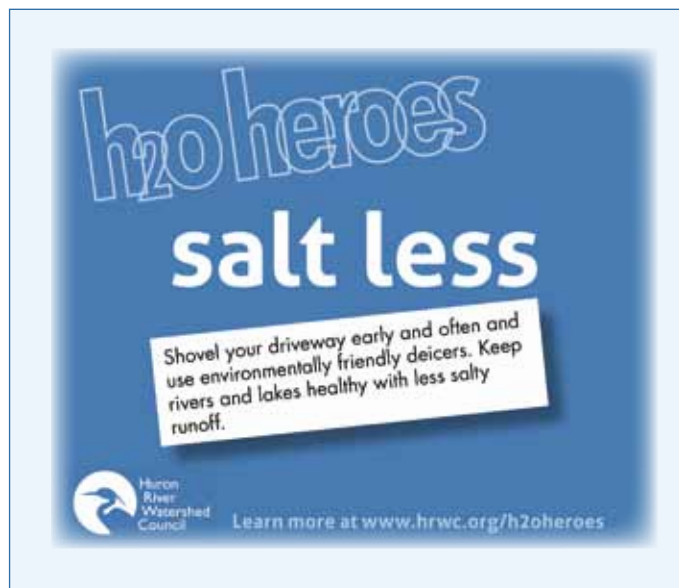
HRWC is asking watershed residents to help us evaluate our past education efforts and set the direction for our future outreach programming. We hope to learn what you already know about our fresh water resources and how you protect them from pollution.

## Go to [www.hrwc.org/survey](http://www.hrwc.org/survey)

The survey is anonymous. Once finished, you can opt into our special drawing for one of ten \$25 gift cards to local retailers like REI, Zingerman's Deli, Whole Foods, Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, and others, or a Flip video camera.

Your participation is very important. Please help protect our rivers, lakes and streams by taking the survey and encouraging your friends and colleagues to do so.

Contact: Pam at [plabadie@hrwc.org](mailto:plabadie@hrwc.org), (734) 769-5123 x 602.





# HRWC and Partners Plan for the Future

Targeting phosphorus pollution, bacteria and habitat problems

HRWC recently released six new management plans to quantify pollutants or problems in specific sections of the watershed (see table for plan summaries) and propose restoration actions and priorities. These plans, completed with assistance from partner organizations in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, represent the latest assessment of individual impairments (e.g. pollutant levels) based on HRWC and partner monitoring, and the collective recommendations to most effectively reduce pollutants and restore the watershed section to full quality.

These new plans are based on over nine years of data collection and many more years and millions of dollars of investment in strategies to reduce pollutants. Some findings suggest that the years of investments by watershed partners are paying off in improved water quality! Assessment of the monitoring data for Strawberry Lake indicates that it is not impaired and simply requires continued observation. Ford and Belleville Lakes and Swift Run Creek are also close to meeting pollutant load limits.

HRWC will now use the plans to seek project funding and guide future pollution reduction and watershed restoration efforts. Advisory groups in both counties are already developing projects for the coming year.

Funds to develop the plans were provided through the Livingston County Drain Commissioner and the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner as part of a US EPA grant to Michigan's Storm Water Program. The plans can be obtained through the HRWC website at [www.hrwc.org/publications/watershed-management-plans](http://www.hrwc.org/publications/watershed-management-plans).

— Ric Lawson

Summary of New Management Plans

Waterbody	Pollutant/Threat	Current Status	Recommended Actions
Ford/Belleville Lakes	Excessive phosphorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting upstream loading targets in river</li> <li>Lakes exceed concentration targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State fertilizer law</li> <li>Stormwater controls</li> <li>WWTP upgrades</li> <li>Septic inspection and remediation</li> <li>Continued education</li> <li>Targeted detention and infiltration</li> </ul>
Brighton Lake	Excessive phosphorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting upstream loading targets in South Ore Creek</li> <li>Lake periodically exceeds concentration target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State fertilizer law</li> <li>Stormwater controls</li> <li>Targeted detention and infiltration</li> <li>Continued education</li> <li>Monitoring</li> </ul>
Strawberry Lake	Excessive phosphorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting upstream loading targets in river</li> <li>Lake meets concentration targets and is not impaired</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State fertilizer law</li> <li>Stormwater controls</li> <li>Continued education</li> <li>Monitoring</li> </ul>
Huron River between Argo and Geddes Ponds	Bacteria ( <i>E. coli</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River and tributaries continue to exceed water contact standards</li> <li>Multiple pollutant sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater controls</li> <li>Illicit discharge detection</li> <li>Pet waste education and control</li> <li>Targeted detention</li> <li>Passive wildlife exclusion</li> </ul>
Malletts Creek	Impaired fish and other aquatic life and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor macroinvertebrate scores</li> <li>Sediment loading exceeds targets</li> <li>Erratic, though improved flows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted detention and infiltration</li> <li>Sediment removal retrofits</li> </ul>
Swift Run	Impaired aquatic life and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor macroinvertebrate scores</li> <li>Sediment loading meeting targets</li> <li>Erratic flows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large-scale detention and infiltration</li> <li>Small-scale residential infiltration education and projects</li> </ul>

## Even H2O Heroes Need Reminders

Pick up your 2012 Watershed Community Calendar for FREE Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm at the NEW Center, 1100 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, 48104.

OR have one mailed to you by sending a \$5 check payable to HRWC, attention Pam (covers handling, envelope, and postage).

For questions contact Pam at [plabadie@hrwc.org](mailto:plabadie@hrwc.org) or call (734) 769-5123 x 602.



Twelve months of beautiful photos by local photographers, plus tips for H2O Heroes!

# Know Your Board Representative

Kathy Aseltyne, White Lake Township

Kathy Aseltyne has served on the White Lake Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, and has mapped the wetland and well head protection areas for the township. She has also worked for the DNR in waste management.

Kathy's interest in water issues stem from learning to dows for water as a child, which taught her that there was water under as well as on top of the ground. Later she wrote her master's thesis in geology on White Lake groundwater and the effects of salt used on roads and in water softeners on water quality.

Kathy has a BA in Psychology, a BS in Geology and an MS in Geology from Wayne State University. She also has an MA in Counseling, is working on a PhD in Counseling and Education at Oakland University and is currently teaching

there in the counseling department. Her interest in this area stems from her belief that many people's problems come from their disconnection and alienation from nature, and she encourages her clients to reconnect and protect the natural environment surrounding them.

Kathy and her husband, Mark Brautigan, live on a 10-acre farm in the township with two sons, Shaun and Patrick, two dogs, eight cats and ten chickens. They have been organic farmers for 26 years and grow most of what they eat. Her current environmental pet peeve is the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on lawns and gardens.

If White Lake Township residents wish to contact Kathy with comments, questions, suggestions, call her at (248) 625-1426. If you wish to become more involved with the important work of the HRWC, please call (734) 769-5123.

— Eunice Burns



Kathy doing what she loves - monitoring local lakes! photo: Oakland Lakefront Magazine and Amy Lockard

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# Laura's Stream of Consciousness

An update on HRWC projects and activities

## KEEP THE GOOD NEWS FLOWING

In early October I received great news about a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) permit application denial due to the organized efforts of HRWC. This application would have added a new WWTP to the river between the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. The State of Michigan's Attorney General and DEQ Water Resources Division's opinion was that the "entire watershed feeding into lakes Ford And Belleville is subject to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus and that the entire available load of phosphorus has been allocated." Any new load above the current allocation or limit will not be allowed unless a commensurate decrease in phosphorus from other permitted sources in the watershed was secured. A letter from MDEQ Water Bureau chief Bill Creal to me was cited. This is a huge victory and shows that our efforts to strengthen the TMDL and make it a load-based TMDL are paying off.

## INTERACTIVE SCULPTURE MAKES A SPLASH

Another "good news" event this fall was the installation of a public water sculpture that integrates stormwater into its artwork. It was installed at the Ann Arbor Municipal Center in early October. This is the culmination of four years of my work and that of former HRWC staff member Joan Martin, as well as the efforts of Janis Bobrin, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, Margaret Parker, Jan Onder, and present and past members of the Ann Arbor Public Arts Commission. Four years ago we met to discuss and view the portfolio of Herbert Dreiseitl, a German artist known for his groundbreaking work integrating urban planning, stormwater management, and

landscape architecture into artistic expression. As we surveyed his work and the way he integrated stormwater into overall site design and elevated much of it to art, we began to develop plans to bring him to the watershed. In the Fall of 2008, we hosted the State of the Huron Conference around Dreiseitl's visit and coordinated meetings with academics, local government officials, planners, and artists. This initial visit generated additional visits whereby Dreiseitl was commissioned under the City of Ann Arbor's Percent for Art Program to develop a piece of art for the entrance to the City Municipal Center. Dreiseitl designed the piece and local artisans manufactured and installed it.

In early October Dreiseitl attended the "opening" or public presentation of the artwork. "Rain is like a gift from the heavens that is all about the future and renewing the earth. Rain drops like pearls and penetrates the surface, glides down, collects, and then flows down the stream. The sculpture tells that whole story," Dreiseitl said. The artwork is the centerpiece of the recently finished municipal center site. Dreiseitl's bronze sculpture stands tall and uses stormwater



Laura making the connection to the Huron. photo: HRWC

to flow down the piece through a series of blue glass "pearl" lights that turn on and off as the water flows through them. The art is part of the rain garden that captures rainwater from the building. The piece will be lit in the evenings and have the water running three seasons. It is a reminder of how our built environment relates to our natural environment.

## RIVERUP! PROJECT LAUNCH

Finally, on a beautiful and hot August day, we hosted the launch of RiverUp! at Island Park in Ann Arbor. Thirty-five people joined us for a morning bus tour of RiverUp! efforts in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to build canoe and kayak portages, reclaim old industrial properties, and shape a Huron River Water Trail. The press event included rousing and heartfelt comments from Congressman John Dingell, Jerry Jung, Tom Woiwode, John Hieftje, Tom Buhr, and myself. More than 100 people attended, in addition to a group of children from the City's canoe camp who talked about why they like the Huron River (my favorite being, "because I just like doing lots of stuff on it").

Multiple media outlets were in attendance at the press event, including WEMU 89.1, TV 20, and annarbor.com. USA Today and the AP wire picked up on the "good news" story.

The interest and energy for the RiverUp! project is exciting and has buoyed our efforts to CleanUp!, BuildUp! and FixUp! the Huron River. This winter, you'll see a new and improved portage at the Superior Dam. By year's end we will complete a plan identifying and prioritizing projects that will guide future direction.

— Laura Rubin



Public art lights up the night and provides interactive fun.

photo: HRWC





*Protecting the river since 1965*

Dear Friends,

With an ever diminishing environmental protection presence at the state and federal levels, the future of the Huron River is going to depend on local action and local leadership. That's what the Huron River Watershed Council brings to our communities, local leadership. *We are asking you to make a difference at the local level with a year-end contribution to the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC.)*

Fifty years ago the Huron River was an environmental wreck. Today, the Huron is the cleanest river in Southeast Michigan. Its water is clear enough to see the pebbles of the riverbed. Along its banks live wildlife and rare native plants. A dedicated following of recreational enthusiasts now enjoy the 100 miles of river, hundreds of lakes, dozens of parks, and diverse wildlife habitat.



HRWC's expertise and involvement have effected significant local and statewide legislation to protect water resources, the denial of numerous permits and proposals that would have degraded the river, and spawned multiple projects improving our quality of life and benefiting our local economy.

HRWC and the Huron River is an environmental success story of which to be proud.

However, while we can feel good about solving the point source pollution problems of the past, the challenge today is non-point source pollution. The watershed suffers from the loss of open space, wetlands, forests, and habitat from advanced development. Excessive impervious surfaces and antiquated dams alter the river's hydrology, increasing sediment buildup and algae blooms. Changes in climate also add to the problems of nonpoint source pollution.

We ask you to remember that HRWC has been here for almost fifty years, and with your tax-deductible donation, we'll provide leadership at the local level for another fifty years. Please use the envelope attached to send us your contribution and keep the Huron River an environmental success story for generations to come.

For the river,

Laura Rubin  
Executive Director



# Thank You for a Memorable Suds



## 2011 Suds on the River Restaurants

Afternoon Delight  
Anthony's Gourmet Pizza  
Back Alley Gourmet  
Carson's American Bistro  
The Chop House  
The Common Grill  
Cupcake Station  
Decadent Delight

Dexter Pub  
Gratzi  
Jerusalem Garden  
Jolly Pumpkin Café and Brewery  
Katherine's Catering  
Logan  
Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack  
Morgan & York

No Thai!  
Pacific Rim  
Palio's  
Paesano Italian Restaurant  
People's Food Co-op  
Plum Market  
Prickly Pear  
Quarter Bistro and Tavern

Real Seafood  
Redbrick Kitchen  
Silvio's Organic Pizza  
Terry B's  
Tio's  
Tracklements Smokery Kerrytown  
Tuptim Thai Cuisine

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**Thanks to the generosity of our hosts Leslie Desmond and Phil Stoffregen, and our presenting sponsor KeyBank, it was another memorable Suds on the River along the beautiful Huron River.**

### Host Committee:

Janis Bobrin and Mike Allemang  
Susie Cannell and Bruce Wallace  
Deanna and Richard Dorner  
Leslie Desmond and Phil Stoffregen  
Mary and Bill Kinley  
Ruth and John Langs  
Marta Manildi and Paul Courant  
Maureen Martin and Mike Penskar  
Jean and Thomas Shope

**Volunteers:** Suzanne Adatto, Marc Akemann, Ingrid Ault, Eric Bassey, Paul Bissell, Dieter and Sandra Bouma, Lucas Brehm, Tiffany Bristol, Lindsay Brownell, Eunice Burns, Misty Callies, Allison Clements, Pat and Paul Cousins, Jacqueline Courteau, Vinal Desai, Leah Drapkin, Karen Duff, Mark Erskine, Lynn Hamilton, Judith Heady, Bob and Beth Hospadaruk, Renee Hytinen, Stas Kazmierski, Gene and Laura LaPorte, Mary LeDuc, John Lloyd, Beverly Manko, Brigit McGowan, Rosalie Meiland, Kyle Moncelle, Scott Munzel, Erica Nelson, Steven Ness, T. Will O'Neill, Ryan Panzer, Shaundra Patterson, Leah Pinho, Emily Provonsha, Bob Robertson, Marlene Ross, Cheryl Saam, Harry Sheehan, Sam Silveson,

Elizabeth Strauss, Blair Treglown, Kathie Weinman, Michael Wells, Barry White.

### Thanks to our Partners for making sure everyone had a good time!

A-I Rental  
Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited  
Gerri Barr  
Colton Bay Outfitters  
Jerry Cyr and Delhi Metropark  
Tim R. Gretkierewicz  
Google  
McFarland's Tree Service  
Promotion Concepts  
Ray Rabidoux and Glacier Hills  
Tom Thompson Flowers  
Unadilla Boatworks

### Bids on the River

#### Auction Donors:

Appel Environmental Design, Arbor Teas, Kathy Aselytne, The Ark, Dea Armstrong, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Burnt Toast Inn, City of Ann Arbor Canoe Liveries, Cathy the Vet, Colton Bay Outfitters, Paul Courant, The Grange, Green Pawz Pet Supply, Fox Hills, Mark Irish, Pat Kelly, Barry Lonik, Keith Matz, Michigan Wildflower Farm, Rainbarrels USA, Roberta Rubin and The Bookstall, Schultz Outfitters, Scrap Happy, Snedcor's Cleaners, Sweetwaters Coffee and Tea, University Musical Society, Vie Spa, West End Grill, Zingerman's Road House, and Eirik Vitso





Huron  
River  
Watershed  
Council

*Protecting the river since 1965*

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## Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Protecting the Huron is a big job and we would be lost without the donations of time, talents, and resources from our dedicated volunteers. **We extend Special Thanks to:**

**Paul Cousins, Jana Smith, Julia Henshaw, Marc Akemann, Kathie Weinmann, and Shirley Axon** for the "show and tell at River RoundUp" demonstration, making native plant terrariums with kids, and selling kayak raffle tickets at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in August.

**Eric Bassey, Jim Fackert and Fred Hanert** for the removal of the fallen tree at Leslie Desmond's canoe launch, which allowed Unadilla Boatworks and Ron Sell to provide canoe rides at Suds on the River.

**Graham Battersby, Eddie Brennan, Beth Bodiya, Max Bromley, Chrissy Chesney, Paul Christensen, Jerry Cyr, Margaret Counihar, Jim Den Vyl, Meg Fairchild, Dirk Fischbach, Nick Gezon, Jessica Chovanec, Joan Hellmann, Sean Hickey, Donald Jacobson, Alex Leader, Katherine Marston, Mark McDonald, Ashley Rose McLaury, Kate Rogers, Mike Schultz, Harry Sheehan, Greg Stevens, Michael Toner, John Weiss, Aaron and Kandy Wiley, Jacob Whiten, Matt Worba, Korinne, Kane,**

**Carson and Joe Wotell, Marianne Vu and Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited, City of Ann Arbor, Huron River Fly Fishing Club, Huron Clinton Metroparks, Schultz Outfitters, Skip's Huron River Canoe Livery and REI** for their support of the Huron River Clean Up. Thanks also to **Washtenaw Dairy** for the great donuts and **Sweetwaters** for the hot coffee.

**John Lloyd, Eric Bassey, and Haley Buffman** for their inspiring photographs of HRWC events.

**WAP John and Grafaktri** for their continued assistance with our graphic display needs on River Up!, the Huron River Water Trail and the Bioreserve Project.

**Quentin Turner** for the EMU Foursquare fundraiser to benefit HRWC.

**One hundred and forty volunteers** who conducted the autumn River RoundUp at 46 creek and river sites around the watershed.

**Dave and Sharon Brooks, Jim Carbone, Peter Grella, Don Rottiers, Cassie Roberts, and Chatura Vaidya** for setting up the RoundUp.

**Shirley Axon, Eunice Burns, Eric Bassey, Ingrid Ault, and Roberta Carr** for ensuring the River RoundUp went off without a hitch.

**Chatura Vaidya** for contributing numerous hours each week to a huge variety of HRWC tasks.

**Catherine Riseng** for contributing her professional skills in identifying aquatic insects and crustaceans.

**Scott Newell and Big City Small World Bakery** for their delicious muffins at our Adopt-A-Stream events.

**Forty two volunteers** who performed Bioresave field assessments on properties throughout the watershed.