



Huron River Report

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Winter 2012

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200 Years of Michigan Fish

Part 1 of a four-part series on Michigan's fisheries

Michigan boasts 11,000 lakes, 36,000 miles of streams and rivers, and is surrounded by the largest system of freshwater lakes on Earth. Over the past two hundred years, European settlers and their descendants have done much to alter these natural systems and the creatures that inhabit them. This article is the first in a series of four articles that examine how humans changed fish diversity and abundance in Michigan since 1830 through greed, stewardship, ignorance and intention.

1830-1873: THE HISTORY OF ABUSE

In the 1830s, many immigrants settled in Michigan and set up homes, farms, and villages. Resource extraction from the land and water defined this period as the settlers worked hard, used Michigan's natural resources, and thrived. Iron, copper, timber, and fish were in plentiful supply.



Sturgeon line the docks in this late 19th century photo. Sturgeon were initially killed and wasted, and later harvested to near extinction. source: Public Domain, Freshwater and Marine Image Bank

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Low Flow Woes and Lake Levels

The consequences of lake level control in a drought

This year's drought and consistently warm winter, spring and summer conditions have lots of people talking about extreme weather and the role of climate change. A compounding factor is the stress that court-established water levels on lakes have on the Huron River system under drought conditions. Climate scientists expect these conditions to occur with greater frequency over the next 30-50 years.

STATE LAW AT ODDS

Michigan law prohibits reduced river flows under Section 324.301 of the 1994 Natural

Resource and Environmental Protection Act. The section states that diminishing an inland lake or stream is prohibited without a permit. "Diminish" can mean to reduce flows to a creek, as happens when gates of a lake level control structure are closed.

However, a bit later in the law, under Section 324.307, reduced river flow is allowed. Under this

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Dam management during drought conditions this summer led to extremely low river flows in some places.

photo: Ben Connor of Ann Arbor

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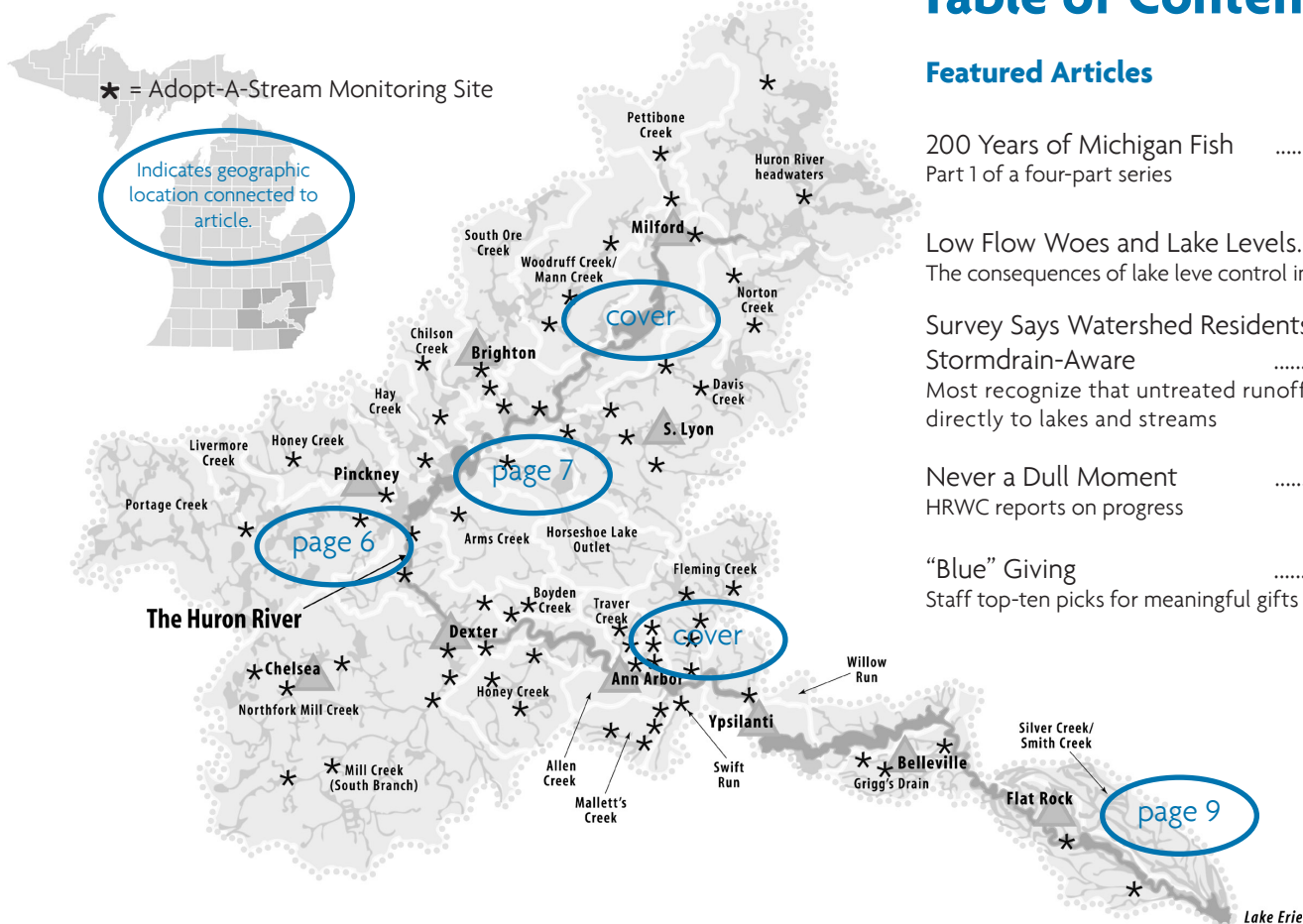
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Events

Thurs. Dec. 13, 5:30 PM
HRWC Executive Meeting
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

Sat. Jan. 26, start at 10:30 AM OR
12:00 PM, and lasting up to 5 hours
Winter Stonefly Search
NEW Center, Ann Arbor - travel to
locations with your team
Registration: www.hrwc.org/volunteers/stonefly
contact: jfrenzel@hrwc.org

Thurs. Jan. 31, 5:30 PM
HRWC Board Meeting
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
contact: lrubin@hrwc.org

Sat. March 2, 9 AM - 5:30 PM
18th Annual Quiet Water Symposium
MSU Campus, East Lansing
www.quietwatersymposium.org
check the website for registration
details, etc.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
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More events and updates on the web at: www.hrwc.org

HRWC offices are located at the NEW Center
1100 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor
Call (734) 769-5123 or visit the HRWC website for directions

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The content of this newsletter is prepared by
HRWC staff and does not necessarily reflect the
opinions of HRWC board members.

200 Years of Michigan Fish

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During these early times, Michigan's fisheries seemed inexhaustible. Lake whitefish was deemed as "one of the highest quality food fishes ever discovered throughout the world" and it "rivaled the great forest of white pine or the buffaloes on the western plains." However, commercial fishing quickly depleted the abundant fisheries of early Michigan as the industry grew in the Great Lakes and major rivers. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish Division has estimated that at least 1.2 billion pounds of fish (whitefish and others) were taken from Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron from 1830-1890. As catches declined, the fishing industry developed new exploitive nets, gear, and techniques to keep the catch high. Other non-target species, known as "bycatch", suffered as a result.

A standard practice for fisherman was to destroy bycatch by dumping these fish on land or purposely injuring them and dropping them overboard to die. The sturgeon became the "poster child" of this pointless waste. In 1973, former DNR Fish Division Chief Wayne Tody wrote, "Today, we deplore the slaughter of the passenger pigeon, the American bison... But very likely, no single animal was ever subjected to such deliberate wanton destruction as was the lake sturgeon."

Lake sturgeon are very large (fifty pound fish were common, and many reached a length of nine feet). The bony plates covering the sturgeon would get entangled in fishing nets and tear the webbing. Also, as the sturgeon is a bottom feeder, fishermen mistakenly thought that these fish ate the young of the more valuable species. For these reasons, fisherman saw the sturgeon as a nuisance species and often killed them just to get rid of them. They piled the fish in long rows on shore and burned them and, because of the sturgeon's high fat content, they also burned the carcasses in boat boilers.

By 1860, a market for a whole variety of sturgeon products took hold, transforming sturgeon from a nuisance species to a

commodity prized for its hide, meat, and roe (caviar). This market took the sturgeon out of the frying pan and into the fire, and in just two generations, the sturgeon of the Great Lakes would be harvested near to extinction.

Today the sturgeon can still be found. But it is a state-listed threatened species and a federal species of concern. Federal and state scientists have had some success in protecting and building the sturgeon population by creating sturgeon habitat in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair.

1873-1929: THE BEGINNING OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT: STOCKING

Spurred on by a need to more carefully manage the resource, in 1873, the State government started the precursor of the Michigan DNR Fish Division – the Board of Fish Commission. The Commission's first responsibility was to "select a suitable location for a State fish-breeding establishment, for the artificial propagation and cultivation of White Fish and such other kinds of the better class of food-fishes as they may direct."



Commercial fisheries harvested over a billion pounds of lake fish from the Great Lakes in the late 1800s.

source: Public Domain, Freshwater and Marine Image Bank

By 1890, after 20 years of attempting to revitalize the commercial fishery through rearing and stocking, the Fish Commission knew that their efforts were on a "break even" level. Whitefish commercial fisheries still existed, but the catch was very low and many of the fishermen could not earn enough to stay above the poverty level. With no regulations in place, the fishermen were keeping everything they caught despite size, and the fish stocked

by the Fish Commission were not given enough time to mature and reproduce.

In 1897, the Fish Commission attempted a political route to fight depletion. However, the state legislature did not allow it to place limitations on the number of fisherman, the amount or type of gear, or even total catch. In addition, the state legislature questioned the Commission's effectiveness and cut its budget in half. Eventually the full budget was reinstated, but the legislature told the Commission that it could no longer allocate money toward the rearing and stocking of commercial fish. The fish rearing operations in Detroit were abandoned. After the turn of the century, under considerable pressure from commercial fishing enterprises, the federal U.S. Fisheries Commission began to operate these empty facilities – but the state government was officially done with assisting the commercial fishing business.

The Commission, with their days managing Great Lakes commercial fisheries behind them, began to invest more heavily in inland waters and intensified their efforts to spread game fish species around the state. One of the Commission's main jobs was to move native species to new areas. By the turn of the century, the Commission spread brook trout from the Upper Peninsula to 1,500 different streams in the Lower Peninsula. Warm water fish were not ignored; the Commission spread bass, perch, and panfish to areas where they had not been, such as isolated lakes.

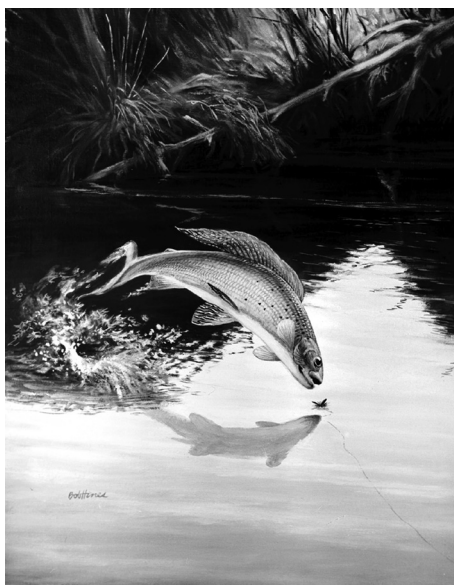
The Fish Commission also brought new species to Michigan by widely spreading both "German" trout and "California" trout. German trout became better known as brown trout, a name change precipitated by the general dislike of Germany during World War I. California trout were eventually called rainbow trout. It is a shame that neither of the old names stuck, since most people today do not know that brown and rainbow trout are not native to Michigan.

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200 Years of Michigan Fish

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Like the commercial fishery, game fish suffered from poor management and non-existent regulations. Native brook trout populations declined because the introduced brown trout was more competitive and able to thrive in slightly warmer waters. However, of particular lament is the decline and loss of the beautiful grayling during this time period.



The Michigan grayling was prized for its beauty and abused for its love of the artificial fly.

credit: Public Domain, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The extirpation of the grayling was the result of overharvesting and habitat loss. As railroads spread, northern streams became more accessible to more people and, as F.A. Westerman, MDNR Fisheries Division Chief noted in 1961, "This greatly intensified the angling pressure on these beautiful fish, which for sheer beauty and gameness could not be excelled by any other fish... No fish responded more avidly to the artificial fly. Long leaders to which three and even four flies were attached often yielded successive catch of three and even four fish at a cast... soon the question arose, 'What had become of the grayling?'" William Montague, a pioneer at Paris, Mecosta County, recalled an adventure with grayling when interviewed in his old age. "One spring the grayling were running up the Hersey. We noted they had some difficulty in passing an obstruction in the stream, so we placed a canoe crosswise at that point and caught

over seven hundred in one afternoon." Needless to say, sustainability was not a mainstream concept in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Timber operations in particular caused extensive erosion, damming, and altered stream hydrology. White pine harvesting was in full swing in the latter half of the 19th century throughout Michigan. All of the prime grayling streams were also in watersheds that had tremendous expanses of white pine. Loggers used streams as the conveyance to transport the logs from upper parts of watersheds down to the Great Lakes, where they could be picked up by ships and carried to population centers like Chicago, Detroit, and Buffalo. It was common practice to build dams and create large impoundments to store the logs. Upon time to transport, the loggers would breach the dam and ride the logs down the river in a huge rush of water. As the logs traveled downstream, they destroyed the stream banks, and the released water scoured the streambed of important gravel and rock substrate.

Overharvesting and the timber practices took their toll on the grayling. Other



Unwise logging practices decimated river habitat in Michigan throughout the 19th century and into the 20th century, as seen in this picture of the Muskegon River.

source: Used with permission, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, BL005914

members of the grayling family are still living in Montana, Europe, and the Arctic, but fisherman last reported catching the Michigan Grayling in 1935.

COMING SOON!

In the next part of this series, HRWC will examine how Michigan led the nation in fisheries research with the founding of the Institute for Fisheries Research in 1930. During this time, the state government began to put fishing regulations in place backed by scientific evidence and reasoning.

— Paul Steen

Sources:

1894. *Biennial Report of the Fish Commission Board, 1892-1894*. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, Lansing, Michigan.

1973. *Michigan Department of Natural Resources Centennial Report, 1873-1973*. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, Lansing, Michigan.

Low Flow Woes and Lake Levels

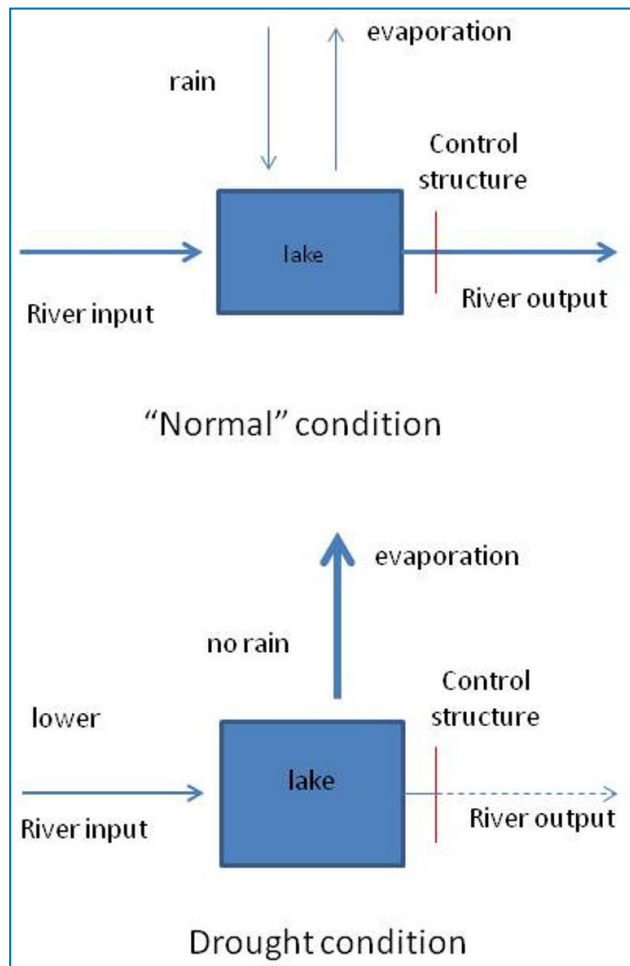
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section, lakes can have a regulated lake level through the use of a lake level control structure that maintains a lake's water level while reducing flow to downstream lakes and rivers. Lake residents are able to obtain these designations for their lake through a process with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Once a judge sets a lake level, the lake or dam manager (often the county Drain or Water Resources Commissioner) is responsible for altering the outflow of the water from these lakes via structures so that the lake is able to maintain a constant depth. Managers have very little allowance to alter these established levels. Lake residents are motivated to pursue regulated lake levels to make boating and recreation easier, and ensure that docks can be used reliably despite changes in weather conditions. Many lakes in the watershed, including in-line impoundments of the Huron River, have court-ordered lake levels.

Typically, though not always, the DEQ gives section 307 precedence over section 301, meaning that permitted lake control structures are allowed to diminish the downstream lake or stream in order to maintain lake levels.

MAINTAINING LAKE LEVELS DURING A DROUGHT

Actions taken to maintain a court-ordered lake level usually go unnoticed during periods of normal weather. But this manipulation of a natural system has the potential to stress the ecology of the lake during drought periods. Since the lake manager is obligated to maintain a fixed lake water level, but not a fixed



Depiction of a simple impoundment system. During dry conditions, evaporation can significantly reduce flow available downstream. credit: HRWC

downstream water level, it is possible that they would need to “hoard” incoming water and only allow reduced flow — or even no flow — downstream (see graphic).

Under typical flow conditions, the amount of water leaving a lake will equal the amount of water entering the lake, plus any additions from rain, and minus any water lost through evaporation. Under drought conditions, the amount of water entering the lake is already reduced from low stream flows, no additional input is provided from rain, and the amount of

evaporation can be significant. As a result, a lake manager may have to close off the outflow altogether to maintain the lake's court-ordered water level, and no water or very reduced flows will reach downstream to keep the fish alive or provide water to the next lake or river section downstream. This situation occurred at a number of locations in the watershed this past summer.

HOW CAN THE SITUATION BE IMPROVED?

A measure of relief could be found in the operation of the structures. Some lakes have an un-gated pipe or dam bypass that drains downstream, so that some amount of water is always flowing downstream even when the dam's gates are completely closed. However, such a bypass is not required to obtain a legal lake level. Building this measure into the requirements would provide a safeguard to ensure that some level of water is always going downstream.

The DEQ has the responsibility to examine the problem with stream flow as it relates to drought and mandated lake levels. In particular, prioritizing the maintenance of lake levels over allowing for run-of-the-river flows is dangerous for the survival of downstream ecosystems, especially during drought conditions. DEQ staff is aware of the problem and considering options short of changing the law. Ultimately, it may take legal or legislative changes to establish better recognition of river and stream flow needs in lake level control policy.

— Paul Steen and Ric Lawson

**BOOKS
BY CHANCE**

Give your old and unwanted books, CDs, and DVDs a second life! Bring them to HRWC between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM weekdays. Books by Chance will sell them over the internet and donate the proceeds to HRWC. Non-fiction, scholarly, technical, current medical and science, quilting/sewing, engineering, law, political, very current fiction, and textbooks appreciated. Questions? Contact Rebecca Foster x 610 or rfoster@hrwc.org.

Survey Says Watershed Residents Are Stormdrain-Aware

Most recognize that untreated runoff goes directly to lakes and streams

Results are in on a recent survey of public attitudes about the quality of local water resources and stormwater impacts in Washtenaw and Livingston counties. The Watershed Community Survey, conducted by HRWC over the past year, was sponsored by two community coalitions, the Middle Huron Stormwater Advisory Group and the Livingston Watershed Advisory Group. The goal was to understand better what watershed residents think about issues related to nonpoint source runoff pollution and what they might be willing to do in their everyday lives to address it. Results will shape future outreach efforts.

The survey was conducted online with participants recruited through the 2012 Watershed Community Calendar, e-mail, print and web advertising, direct in-person contact, and social media. The 38 survey questions were designed to reasonably compare with two previous surveys, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (2004 Regional Water Quality Survey) and the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office (2008 Community Attitude and Interest Survey). Over 700 residents completed the survey, most of them from Washtenaw County.

KEY FINDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Participants are fairly positive about the quality of water in their local lakes, rivers and streams.

Forty-five percent (45%) of those surveyed thought water quality was improving (answering "somewhat better" or "much better"), more than double the result of the 2004 Regional Water

Quality Survey (20% answered similarly). In general, that opinion is consistent with HRWC monitoring data and public information provided by HRWC.

2. Participants recognize that local upstream water quality definitely impacts the Great Lakes.

A resounding 94% agreed or strongly agreed that the quality of local streams where they live affects the Great Lakes (and Lake St. Clair). In the 2004 Regional Water Quality Survey only 76% agreed or strongly agreed.

3. Stormwater runoff is a major concern.

56% recognize that stormwater runoff contributes the MOST pollution to our local lakes, rivers, and streams, as compared to other sources (wastewater treatment plant discharges, factories/industrial discharge, sewage overflows, agriculture, illegal dumping) with an even greater number, 73%, understanding that stormwater goes directly into lakes and streams without treatment after it enters a stormdrain or roadside ditch.

4. HRWC and community education on the concept of watersheds is working.

As indicated by their recognition that upstream water quality impacts the Great Lakes (94%), their concern for polluted runoff (56%), and their recognition that runoff goes directly to waterways untreated (73%), the public generally understands the relationship between runoff, local streams, and the Great Lakes. Understanding of the word "watershed" is on the rise with 52% describing the location where they live as being in one, as compared to the 2004 Regional Water Quality Survey in which only 14% knew they lived in a watershed, and the 2008 Community Attitude and Interest Survey, where slightly more (18%) knew they live in one.

5. Respondents believe that everyone is responsible for protecting and preserving water quality.

When asked their opinion about protecting and preserving the water quality of local lakes, rivers and streams

most people indicated that "each of us as individuals" should take responsibility (89%). But they also pointed to a number of others who need to be involved, including our federal, state and county or municipal governments and resource user groups such as boaters, canoeists, kayakers and fisherman.

Thanks to everyone who participated! Get the full report, including results and analysis of what watershed residents are already doing to protect water quality and what additional things they are willing to do, at www.hrwc.org.

—Pam Labadie



photo: HRWC

Welcome, Rebecca!

Rebecca Foster, Development Associate, joined HRWC in August to work on membership support and special events. Rebecca recently completed eight years as Village President for the Village of Pinckney and brings prior experience in development and public relations to the job. Rebecca holds a Master of Science degree in Art Education from Penn State and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Lycoming College. She resides in the Honey Creek watershed in Livingston County.

Congratulations to HRWC Chairman of the Board **Evan Pratt** on his new position as the **Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner!**

Never a Dull Moment

HRWC reports on progress

ADOPT-A-STREAM

Measuring & Mapping program teams succeeded in collecting habitat information about local sampling sites. A new partnership between HRWC, Leslie Science & Nature Center (LSNC), and Leslie Golf Course offered LSNC campers the opportunity to sample Traver Creek while studying water quality changes related to the golf course's waterway restoration project. Our newest endeavor has been the River Stewards pilot, where long-term volunteers walked sections of Mill and Fleming creeks.

BIORESERVE

The summer field season wrapped up with 53 assessments on private and public lands, including 11 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) preserves and natural areas within four Huron-Clinton (HCMA) Metroparks. Based on the assessments, SMLC and HCMA can create effective management plans for these ecosystems. A new project creating a Green Infrastructure plan and map has started in Lyndon Township and will soon expand to other communities, helping to guide future land development and natural asset planning.

HONEY CREEK

HRWC engaged volunteers to collect water samples throughout the Honey Creekshed to determine patterns of bacteria levels in the tributary just west of Ann Arbor in Scio Township. Honey Creek was previously found to have unsafe levels of bacteria. Samples were analyzed for bacteria concentration and genetic fingerprints to identify potential sources. Unfortunately, results showed broad contamination across the creekshed, and many types of sources were identified including human activities. HRWC is developing a plan to identify and reduce creek contamination.

DETECTING FAILING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

HRWC leads a project team on developing and testing a protocol for focusing resources to address failing septic systems. The team developed a protocol that employs a combination of GIS, thermal and color infrared imagery, and targeted education. The protocol was tested in the

field by 300 homeowners. HRWC, along with Washtenaw County, Sanborn Solutions, and Photo Science, Inc., embarked on this project to find a way to reduce the quantity of phosphorus and bacteria entering the middle Huron River from failing septic systems, and to develop a cost-effective approach for county health departments across the country to monitor and correct problems.

MAKING CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Project participants of the Natural Infrastructure, In-stream Flows, and Water Infrastructure sectors met over the course of six months to discuss vulnerabilities to projected changes to the local climate and develop strategies to reduce these vulnerabilities. Outcomes include: tree species fact sheets sharing the predicted impact of climate change on key tree species in our watershed for large scale planting and reforestation efforts; a meeting of dam operators to discuss communication needs for optimal everyday and emergency management of main stem dams for improved river flow management; and a revision of rainfall frequency curves for the area for improved decisions about stormwater infrastructure and management.

RIVERUP!

HRWC's partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, and a group of business and community leaders called the Wolfpack, is yielding amazing results. During the first year of this river renaissance, RiverUp! completed design and construction for the improved portage at Superior dam; launched the Huron River Water Trail with a new logo, way-finding signs, marketing, and the designation of four Trail Towns; and coordinated the re-envisioning of two industrial riverfront properties in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. A more complete review of the first year, as well as plans for the next three years, is available at www.riveruphuron.org.



Young water heroes try out their masks at Summer Fest. photos: HRWC

STORMWATER PERMITS

Michigan DEQ recently revised stormwater permits for municipalities in the Huron River watershed. The biggest revision is that municipalities will apply and receive individually tailored permits rather than coverage under a general statewide permit. Other changes include responsibilities for addressing water quality impairments, monitoring, and general flexibility in how communities choose to comply. HRWC's Stream Monitoring points to success in this type of approach. HRWC is coordinating application content for most municipalities in Livingston, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

SAVING WATER SAVES ENERGY

This program had an outstanding summer outreach season. Fifteen festivals (March through September); 9 different communities in the watershed (Milford to Flat Rock); 25 volunteers; 1 H2O Hero (in costume); 2 visits from Congressman John Dingell (Huron River Day and Riverfest); 500 hero masks (colored, cut, and assembled by the youngest everyday heroes); 1,500 five-minute shower timers and tip cards distributed; 1,000 toilet leak detection kits put to use by homeowners; 350 "pledges to save" collected; and countless conversations about EPA's WaterSense label, the affordability of water efficiency and the resulting benefits (saving water, energy, money and reducing carbon emissions).

— compiled by Elizabeth Riggs

"Blue" Giving

Staff top-ten picks for meaningful holiday gifts

1. Nothing says "I love you" like a local farm share providing the recipient with a weekly supply of organic, in-season produce grown by local farmers. For a list of sources check out annarbor.com/entertainment/food-drink/an-updated-csa-guide-for-2012.
2. A rain chain makes a beautiful feature out of the transport of water from rooftop to soil.
3. A dissecting microscope will encourage your budding biologist by giving them an up-close look at nature and all of its wonder.
4. For that special someone who loves to run, how about an upcycled bag or tote made from race bibs? Look at www.mile22bags.com.
5. For the techie, a Nest Learning Thermostat tracks individual heating and cooling needs and keeps the home environment comfortable and efficient.
6. A gift certificate from a native plant nursery makes gardeners happy while protecting the river, as native gardens require less water and fertilizer and are great for filtering pollutants Try Nature and Nurture, Appel Environmental Design, Native Plant Nursery or Plantwise for local plant stock.



7. A WaterSense labeled showerhead saves money, water and energy and still provides a refreshing shower.

8. Rain barrels capture water from rooftops and hold it for later use, keeping water out of the stormwater system and reducing the impacts of urban runoff.
9. A number of books for all ages are written by Michigan authors on topics relate to water and nature. Try *Chickadees At Night* by Bill O. Smith for children or *The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis for adults.
10. And last, but certainly not least, a membership to HRWC includes that good feeling you get when you support a great cause, plus a quarterly newsletter, discounts on some great events and our sincerest appreciation: www.hrwc.org/support-us.

— compiled by Rebecca Esselman

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Laura's Stream of Consciousness

An update on HRWC projects and activities

THANK YOU, JANIS!

Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, is retiring at the end of the year. She has committed her 33-year career to the environment, people, and public service, and has led the charge to transform the way we manage water in Michigan. Janis has guided the state and region through her focus on water quality improvement projects, stewardship, community engagement, and green infrastructure.



photo: AA News

In 1988, Janis was elected Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, a position that traditionally focused on maintenance and construction of DRAINS to get the

water off the land as fast as possible. Her background in environmental planning made her especially well-suited to the evolving role of the drain commission. In her five terms in office, she expanded and reshaped the position to one that focuses on water quality protection and restoration – that's WATER (not drains!) – a change reflected in the new title adopted four years ago: Water Resources Commissioner.

In addition to the responsibilities of her office, Janis manages Washtenaw County's Public Works Department and operates the County's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control program. She has also served as a member of numerous local commissions focused on environmental protection. Prior to her current position, Janis worked as an environmental planner and manager of water quality programs for SEMCOG.

Recent creek and watershed restoration projects include:

- Malletts Creek Restoration Project in Ann Arbor (2012), which will improve water quality and habitat in the creek, resulting in an annual reduction of

715 pounds of phosphorus discharged to the Huron River from the Malletts Creekshed.

- Mary Beth Doyle Wetland Preserve in Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township (2008). The wetland holds 15 million gallons of stormwater before releasing it slowly back to Malletts Creek. The wetland helps stabilize flow after a storm and removes 2/3 of the sediments and phosphorous that would have otherwise flowed into the Huron River.
- Pioneer High and West Park Stormwater projects in the Allen Creekshed (2011).

Other issues Janis has taken on include:

- Development of a Watershed Plan for the Middle Huron River that guides protection and restoration efforts and is a prerequisite to receipt of state and federal grants.
- Instituting programs to eliminate and prevent pollution in county drains and waterways.
- Adoption of requirements for low impact, natural approaches to storm water management in new developments, to protect our water resources as the county grows.

In addition, Janis has implemented public outreach programs like Community Partners for Clean Streams, RiverSafe Homes, and the Residential Rain Garden Program, which have become State and National models.

Janis's career has set a high bar for the rest of us to strive for in water resource protection. She showed us how we can all make a difference in our community, region, and state. Whether it is changes to state policy, helping local residents with flooding problems, or leading pollution prevention initiatives, Janis's know-how and tenacity got things done.

Protecting natural resources for this and future generations is a daunting goal, but Janis Bobrin has never shied from the challenge. The water resources of this region, the state, and the Great Lakes have a much brighter future thanks to Janis's career. Thank you, Janis.



photo: J. Lloyd

THE CLEAN WATER ACT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

It's not every day that you get to commemorate landmark environmental legislation with a legislator who authored it. That's just what Elizabeth Riggs and I did on October 18th in Flat Rock with Congressman John Dingell (D-MI15) to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. We were joined by other conservationists and sportsmen dedicated to protecting our freshwaters.

The Clean Water Act has been central to cleaning up the Huron River and the nation's waters including the Great Lakes and all the waters within their basin. Many of our programs and funding owe their start and continuation to the tools and resources provided by the Act. In fact, HRWC has received about 24 grants valued at over \$3,000,000 that reach into all communities of the watershed with the unifying goal of making the river more swimmable, fishable and drinkable. These grants have restored creeks, protected high quality streams, and developed forward-looking plans that commit stakeholders to restoration and protection actions.

Even on a sun-filled autumn afternoon where the mood was festive, the prospect of Congressional threats to the Act cast a shadow. In passing the Clean Water Act, Dingell and his bipartisan colleagues worked to establish a broader definition of which waters could be protected. Some members of the current Congress are intent on dismantling the Act and the US EPA. We are watching these bills closely at HRWC. I encourage you to do the same and take action to let your voice be heard as the voice for the Huron River and freshwaters all over the county.

— Laura Rubin

Thank you to the brewers, the brew pubs, the staff, the chefs, the host committee, our hosts John and Ruth Langs, and Steppe Solutions. Thank you to our guests, our great volunteers, the staff and board of HRWC. Thank you to everyone who supported HRWC through our brew events and joined us in a toast to the Huron River.

*We had a wonderful time and,
until next year, see you on the river.*



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Donna and Stu Snyder
Christopher Kelly and Gary Banas
Gerri Barr and Tom Egel

Restaurants

Afternoon Delight
Anthony's Gourmet Pizza
Carson's American Bistro
Cupcake Station
Decadent Delight Cakes and Pastries
Dexter Pub
Gratz
Jerusalem Garden
Jolly Pumpkin Café and Brewery
Katherine's Catering
La Dolce Vita
Logan
Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack
Morgan & York

Volunteers

Ingrid Ault
Eric Bassey
Matthew Bergh
Paul Bissell
Michele Blinder
Tiffany Bristol
Susan Bryan
Eunice Burns
Misty Callies
Jared Collins
Pat Cousins
Paul Cousins

Nina Cruz
Shannon Culver
Max Davidson
John Davis
Leah Drapkin
Seth Elliott
Meg Fairchild
Mariah Fink
Rebecca Foster
Nicole Genaw
Kyle Green
Lindsay Hanna

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Paesano Italian Restaurant
Palio
People's Food Coop
Prickly Pear Southwest Café
Real Seafood
Redbrick Kitchen
Silvio's Organic Pizza
Terry B's Restaurant & Bar
The Common Grill
Tios
Tracklements Smokery Kerrytown
Tuptim Thai Cuisine

Judith Heady
Janet Kahan
Anita Lamour
Emily Levine
John Lloyd
Laura LoVasco
Rosalie Meiland
Mike Mouradian
Suzanne Ohmit
Will O'Neil
Heather Rice
Pamela Rice

Chris Riggs
Cassie Roberts
Bob Robertson
Marlene Ross
Harry Sheehan
Lara Thomas
Blair Treglown
Kathy Weinman
Ivy Wei
Barry White
Louisa White
Korinne Wotel

Volunteers Needed!

Spend a few hours per week on a project of interest

As the field season winds down, HRWC is in need of a few volunteers to work on indoor projects.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Interested in publicity, marketing, graphics, or public education campaigns? HRWC's marketing work could use your creativity! Time commitment: 1-3 half-days per week. contact: Pam Labadie, plabadie@hrwc.org, ext. 602

HRWC ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Seeking 2-3 volunteers to conduct a series of organizational oral history interviews. Volunteers for this project must be good with people and documentation, able to commit to 10+ hours per month over the next 1-2 years, and have an interest in learning HRWC's history. contact: Jason Frenzel, jfrenzel@hrwc.org, ext. 600

OFFICE TASKS

A volunteer who is comfortable with a variety of computer programs is needed to help upload files, bolster HRWC webpage links, and handle other task-oriented computer work. Time commitment is one to two half-days in the HRWC office. contact: Jason Frenzel, jfrenzel@hrwc.org, ext. 600



Eric Bassey was awarded the 2012 THAT'S USING YOUR HEADWATERS volunteer award thanks to his expertise with computers and fantastic help at the HRWC offices. photo: HRWC

Your year-end gift **strengthens HRWC** programs and continues the tradition of working together to preserve, restore and protect the natural resources of our Huron River Watershed. Please use the envelope enclosed to donate today, **and thank you!**

Yes, I want to help protect the Huron River

I wish to become a member of HRWC in the amount of:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Mayfly | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Soft Shell Turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Great Blue Heron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Crayfish | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Salamander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Dragonfly | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Smallmouth Bass | |

Name _____

Address _____

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☐ Yes I would like to receive HRWC news and updates emails,

my email address is: _____

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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:**

Ron Sell, Barry Lonik, Gerry Neumeier and Dea Armstrong for their leadership and stewardship on the Huron River summer paddle trips.

Paul Cousins, Tom Jameson, Lisa Perschke, Bob Robertson, Jana Smith, Korinne Wotell, and Kathie Weinmann for making HRWC's booth at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in August a huge success. As a result of their efforts we sold \$1,000 in kayak raffle tickets, signed up dozens of people for our newsletter, handed out 350 shower timers or leak detection kits and shared super-hero mask-making and stream monitoring with more than a hundred families.

Leslie Rivera of the City of Ann Arbor for teaming up to distribute local "homegrown" water at the Homegrown Festival.

Twenty volunteers who conducted Measuring & Mapping of local streams.

Josh Miller and Heather Rice of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office for working our booth at the University of Michigan's "Party for the Earth."

Matt and Drake LaFleur, Korinne Wotell, and Dan O'Donnell, Howard Borden, Tom Witkowski and Don Rothman of the Huron River Fishing Association for helping with set-up and pack-up, telling fishing stories, tying flies, and talking with the public at the Flat Rock River Festival.

Two dozen volunteers at the River Cleanup; the **Village of South Rockwood, Lake Pointe Marina, A&J Maintenance, Riverfront Family Restaurant, and the City of Ypsilanti** for agreeing to help dispose of the trash; **Riverside Kayak Connection, Schultz Outfitters, and Skip's Canoe Rental** for loaning equipment; and to **Mike Schultz and Kermit Jones** for helping to coordinate the cleanups.

Korinne Wotell for going above the call of duty with our Education, Water Quality, and Marketing programs this summer.

Bruce Artz, Dick Chase, Max Bromley, Dave and Sharon Brooks, Bret Harris, Peggy Liggitt, Joan Martin, Chatura Vaidya, and Pranav Yajnik for their intrepid "creek walks" for the pilot River Steward project.

Thirty-eight volunteers who performed Bioreserve field assessments on properties throughout the watershed.

Ingrid Weisz for collecting pictures for our Flickr Plant ID photostream.

Sally Rutzky for leading Bioreserve volunteers on a plant ID walk at South Lake.

Jay Siegel, special project assistant, for his help with the Huron River Water Trail.