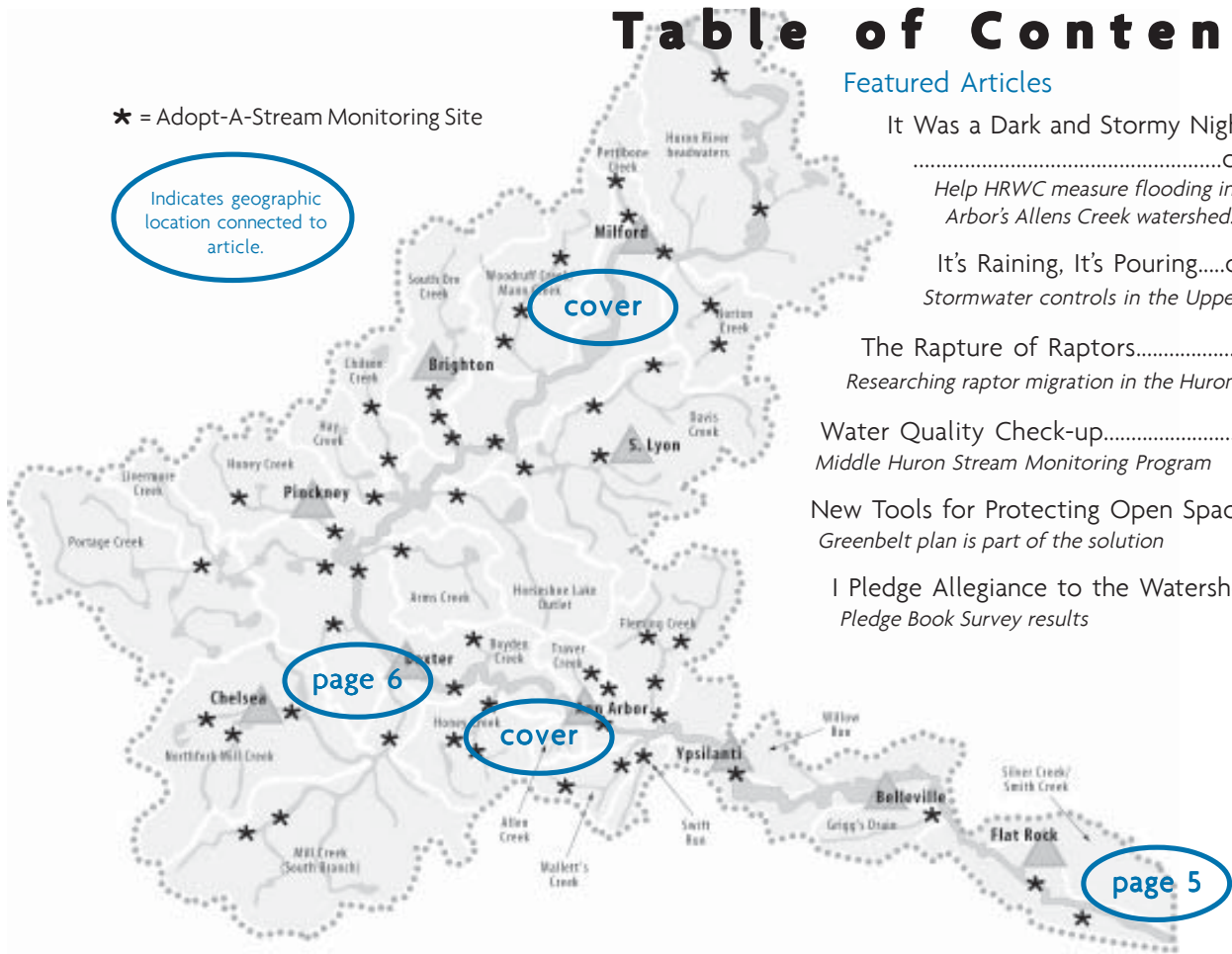




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★ = Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Site

Indicates geographic location connected to article.



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## EVENTS

Monday, March 22 and Thursday, May 13, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

### “Marketing the Environment”

#### Trainings

NEW Center  
 Call Jennifer at (734) 769-5123 x8

Thursday, March 25, 5:30-7:30 PM

### Executive Committee Meeting

NEW Center  
 Call Laura at (734) 769-5123 x2

Sunday, April 4, noon-5 PM

### Leadership Training

NEW Center & Nearby Creek  
 Call Adopt at (734) 769-5971

Saturday, April 17, 9 AM-3:30 PM or 10:30 AM-5 PM

### River RoundUp

Entire Watershed  
 Call Adopt at (734) 769-5971

Thursday, April 22, 9 AM-noon

### Middle Huron Partnership Spring Meeting

Location: TBA  
 Call Elizabeth at (734) 769-5123 x4

Tuesday, April 27, 5:30-7:30 PM

### Annual Meeting

Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
 Call Laura at (734) 769-5123 x2

Sunday May 2, noon-3 PM or 2 -5 PM

### Bug ID Day

NEW Center  
 Call Adopt at (734) 769-5971

Sunday, May 16, 2-5 PM

### Flow Training

NEW Center & Nearby Creek  
 Call Adopt at (734) 769-5971

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

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

# It Was A Dark and Stormy Night . . .

Help HRWC Measure Flooding in Ann Arbor

*continued from cover*

development would have. By the early 20th century increased runoff had turned the small, shallow tributary into a polluted creek that expanded during rainstorms to erode and overflow its banks.

The community put Allens Creek out of sight by running it through underground pipes in 1926. Unfortunately, additional development in the five-square mile watershed created more impervious surfaces (such as streets and sidewalks), which caused an increase in storm runoff that could not be contained by the relatively small-diameter pipes of 1926. Furthermore, people built in the floodplain, ignoring the fact that even a creek that runs through a buried pipe needs room to expand into its floodplain. (The floodplain is the area that will be underwater during an unusually large storm, perhaps once in a hundred years.) As impervious surfaces increase, more stormwater flows rapidly overland swelling the creek flow, which can increase the size of the floodplain.

## FLOODPLAIN STUDY

Given the rapid development in the Allens Creek watershed, the floodplain maps are arguably outdated and inaccurate. With

regular planning requests in the Allens Creek watershed, the City wants to develop an accurate computer model of the area. A model is as strong as its data and, therefore, HRWC is working with the City to conduct a study in 2004-05 that will provide data on rainfall, flow in the few



Land area drained by Allens Creek. If you live or work in this area you can help measure flooding and rainfall. —map: HRWC

open portions of the creek, overland flow amounts and timing, and some in-pipe flow measurement. Establishing more accurate floodplain boundaries will help to regulate development in the interest of public safety and sound infrastructure.

We invite all of our readers to participate in the study. It promises to be fun since the creek has such a dramatic response to small, but intense, gully-washers. You can help to record rainfall and measure the area and depth of flooding on the west

side of Ann Arbor (see map). Two advisory groups, one technical and one composed of interested citizens, will guide the effort. HRWC will do the following:

- Provide rain gauges to several residents of the Allens Creek watershed with which to record the extent of rainfall in their yard;
- Train people how to measure and to document with photos the extent of flooding near their home or place of work;
- Create a flow team (see article below) to measure discharge, i.e. the amount of water flowing in the two locations where the creek still flows above ground (north of Liberty and near the U-M golf course); and
- Record the continuous creek flow at three locations for two years.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities please contact Joan Martin at [jmartin@hrwc.org](mailto:jmartin@hrwc.org). Chris and Elizabeth may even join us!

**- Joan Martin**

## Why Join the Storm Patrol?

*Find Adventure, New Friends, and Deep Satisfaction*

I volunteered with HRWC because it sounded like I would get the chance to do things I would never get the chance to do in my everyday life. The opportunity to learn something new, so far removed from what I do professionally and personally, was really attractive...and the results would be important to the health and future of our river and the watershed.

My decision to volunteer has been very rewarding and has also provided me with more than a few memorable experiences. During one storm, I was hunkered in the

culvert taking measurements when it started to rain pretty hard. By the time we left the site, the sky had that sick green-yellow cast, which always brings tornados to mind for me. Sure enough, on our way to the next site we heard the weather alert: tornado! As we completed our flow measurements and began stowing gear, the sky cleared with a burst of sunshine, followed by a vibrant double rainbow. All of this was accompanied by a brilliant male cardinal perched on a maple tree singing a glorious song. The scene was beyond picture perfect.

And to think I wouldn't have been there if I hadn't volunteered to be part of a "storm patrol" team!

Adventure.... stewardship.... knowledge.... the beauty, richness and power of the Huron River and its watershed....new friends....great leadership and learning opportunities. This is the short list of how that decision to step forward to volunteer has brought so much more to my life than I ever imagined.

**- Carole Dubritsky**

# It's Raining, It's Pouring

## Stormwater Controls in the Upper Huron are Underperforming

continued from cover

These BMPs remove pollutants and retain stormwater on-site rather than flushing it quickly downstream. Some innovative examples of stormwater BMPs include pervious pavement, green roofs, rain gardens, and constructed wetlands.

### LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

The project focused on the Norton Creek and Huron-Milford sub-basins (see map on cover) which cover 27 square miles of the Kent Lake subwatershed. Although these two sub-basins represent about 17% of the Kent Lake subwatershed, recent MDEQ studies have indicated that they contribute more than 60% of the current total non-point source phosphorus load entering Kent Lake.

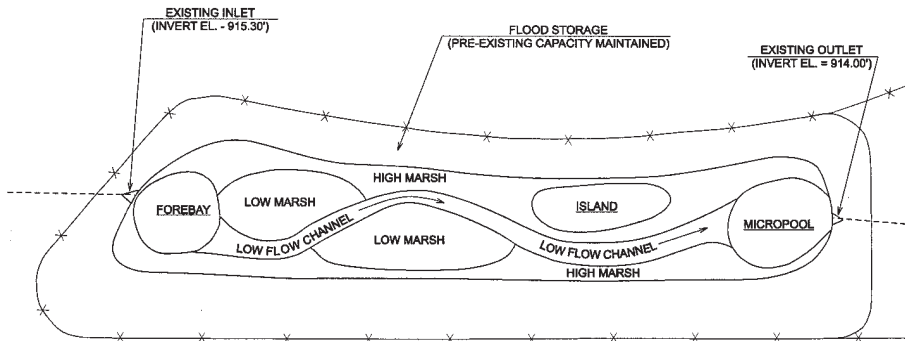
### SARAH BANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sarah Banks Middle School is adjacent to a tributary of Norton Creek in Wixom. Approximately half of the campus drains to a large stormwater basin that discharges to the adjacent tributary. This basin is dry except during rain events; it is not designed to hold water long enough during heavy rainfalls to allow phosphorus-laden sediment to settle out. The sediment and attached phosphorus flows through the basin and into the tributary with little opportunity for phosphorus removal. The general plan for the BMP retrofit at Sarah Banks is to convert the dry basin into a stormwater wetland (see sketch below). Various specialized features of the wetland, including two permanent pools, a winding

velocity of stormwater entering the basin will be significantly reduced, reducing the potential for sediment re-suspension during storm events.

### MILFORD CENTRAL PARK

The third site is Milford Central Park, located in downtown Milford adjacent to the Huron River. The park includes mowed grassed areas down to the river bank that attract Canadian geese (and their phosphorus-laden droppings) and suffers from bank erosion. No apparent stormwater controls are in place, and there is ample space to incorporate various structural stormwater BMPs without compromising the recreational opportunities this popular park provides.



The proposed site design improvement for Sarah Banks Middle School: a constructed wetland, which will improve phosphorus removal and reduce storm flow. —diagram: Limno-Tech, Inc.

Due to the technical nature of this project and the need for engineering expertise, HRWC sub-contracted with Limno-Tech, Inc. to assist with the site selection process and to develop the engineering plans. A Technical Review Team comprised of engineers and planners with relevant expertise in stormwater management assembled to provide oversight of the site selection process and BMP designs. In consultation with the Technical Review Team and Limno-Tech, HRWC developed a three-tiered screening process to narrow the range of potential candidate sites. The project team, using a process that incorporated GIS data, input from local government and citizens, and field reconnaissance, selected three sites, each with unique features requiring different solutions. And the winners are:

channel, and varied marsh topography will slow the path of the stormwater, allowing phosphorus removal through settling of sediment. In addition, wetland plants will provide treatment through physical filtration, nutrient uptake, and biodegradation.

### WILDWOOD SUBDIVISION

The Wildwood subdivision, also in Wixom, contains a mostly dry detention basin that is similar in appearance to the basin at Sarah Banks Middle School. Wildwood's suburban residential nature likely makes it a significant source of phosphorus from lawn fertilization, pet waste, and road dirt. The proposed BMP retrofit at Wildwood is to convert the existing basin into a wet detention pond, which removes pollutants primarily through settling of solids. The detention pond will be divided into a smaller settling pool and a main pond by a berm and spillway. By separating the settling pool from the main pond, the

The retrofit plan for Milford Central Park consists of three primary BMP systems. The first includes a catch basin and two rain gardens connected by a grassed swale to treat water from a play area and parking lot. Second, riparian filter strips along the banks of the Huron River and parts of Pettibone Creek in the park will slow runoff, filter out pollutants, and provide some infiltration. They will also hinder goose access to the park, improve aesthetics and enhance habitat. Finally, eroding banks along the river and creek will be stabilized through geotextiles and vegetation.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Securing grant funding will be essential to realizing these conceptual plans, which will serve as examples for other BMP retrofit opportunities to improve Kent Lake's water quality goals. In January, HRWC submitted two grant proposals under the Clean Michigan Initiative to pursue construction of the BMPs at Sarah Banks Middle School and the Wildwood subdivision.

Plans to implement the BMPs at Milford Central Park are on hold while the Village continues to explore options for improving the park's recreational facilities, which it intends to start in the next 3-5 years. When the time comes, HRWC hopes to work with Milford to secure additional funding to incorporate the BMPs into the new and improved park.

—Chris Riggs

# Getting a Handle on Grease

Education Campaign Targets Slippery Issue with Slick

We all know what too much fat, oil and grease can do to our arteries. But many folks don't realize fat, oil and grease (FOG) present a real health hazard to our waterways.

How do these pollutants reach local waterways? Through the stormdrain system. FOGs are washed off floors, walks and alleyways into the drains. Leaking dumpsters deposit FOGs on lot surfaces. Kitchen staff unwittingly pour FOGs straight into the stormdrain, intending to prevent clogging their internal facility plumbing.

To address this problem, the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County are working together on a FOG education campaign targeting restaurant owners and employees. The County is completing a fact sheet for restaurant owners on proper FOG handling procedures. The City is complementing the County's brochure with a sign to be placed near restaurant sinks or back doors that was developed by HRWC.



Signs similar to this one were created by HRWC and will be distributed to restaurants within Washtenaw County. —illustration: Christianson Design

Both products will be distributed to all restaurants in Washtenaw County beginning this spring.

To inquire about the FOG educational materials, or to report a leaking grease dumpster, please call HRWC at (734) 769-5123 x8.

- Jennifer Wolf

# Raptor Rapture

Lake Erie Metropark Hawk Watch Tracks Migration in the Huron

During Autumn, the skies over southeast Michigan are alive with tens of thousands of hawks, eagles, falcons, and other birds of prey. In the fall of 1983, the Lake Erie Metropark Hawk Watch began recording this fall hawk migration over Lake Erie

Metropark and Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Southeastern Michigan Raptor Research (SMRR), incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1998 under this new name, continues to monitor one of the largest hawk migration corridors in the western

hemisphere.

The SMRR had an exceptional 2003 season with 15 of 16 species having average or better seasonal numbers. The Black Vulture was also added to their records. The SMRR hires a professional counter each year with financial help from DTE Energy, but can also use volunteers. If you are interested, then visit the website at <http://smrr.net> or contact Paul Cypher at [pcypher@gatecom.com](mailto:pcypher@gatecom.com).

## SEASON TOTALS FOR 2003

Black Vulture	1*
Turkey Vulture	73,886**
Osprey	246
Bald Eagle	199
Northern Harrier	1,372**
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12,080
Coopers Hawk	882
Northern Goshawk	50
Red-shouldered Hawk	874
Broad-winged Hawk	87,359
Swainsons Hawk	14***
Red-tailed Hawk	12,161**
Rough-legged Hawk	100
Golden Eagle	124
American Kestrel	2,380
Merlin	83
Peregrine Falcon	87
Short-eared Owl	2
Unknown	12

Total: 191,912

\* new species for site

\*\* new single season record

\*\*\* ties single season record

- Laura Rubin



Raptors spotted at the Huron delta include the Red-tailed Hawk (inset). —photos: Paul Cypher

# Water Quality Check-up

## Middle Huron Stream Monitoring Program

This past year marked the first complete season of HRWC's Stream Monitoring Program in the middle Huron River Watershed. Four new sites were added (Malletts Creek, Millers Creek, Swift Run, and Superior Drain) bringing the total monitoring sites to 10, and the field season ran from May to September (see map for monitoring locations). The program began with a scaled-down version in 2002.

### PROGRAM ORIGINS

The Middle Huron Stream Monitoring Program was developed in response to community interest in increasing the data available on nutrient contributions to the middle Huron River. The data is intended to lead to a better understanding of pollution contributions from non-point sources in this portion of the watershed. An improved understanding of sources will help the Partners of the Middle Huron Initiative to focus and track pollution reduction efforts as they strive to meet phosphorus reduction goals for Ford and Belleville lakes.

### DATA COLLECTION AND RESULTS

At each monitoring location, volunteer Stream Monitors gathered data on site conditions including weather conditions, pH, conductivity, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen. Volunteers bottled water samples at each site and immediately transported them to the lab for

analysis of Total Phosphorus, Nitrate + Nitrite, and Total Suspended Solids. In addition, the volunteers measured flow velocity to calculate nutrient loadings.

One field season's worth of data is not enough to identify trends, but a few highlights are worth noting. The data show that Total Phosphorus levels at all of the stream sites in the study exceeded 0.03 ppm, which is the mandated level for Belleville Lake. The Huron River site upstream of the middle Huron measured below 0.03 ppm for all months except September. Total Phosphorus load (lbs/day) measurements show Mill Creek as contributing the most nutrients on a consistent basis, at times as much as 50 percent of the load existing in the River. Rain events in late summer resulted in high Total Phosphorus load in Fleming and Malletts creeks, implying that stormwater runoff is a significant source of phosphorus.

Conductivity is a general measure of water quality and refers to the amount of dissolved ions present in the water. Measurements less than 800  $\mu$ S are considered normal for Michigan streams. Six sites consistently had conductivity levels higher than 800  $\mu$ S: Honey, Allens, Traver, Malletts, Millers and Swift Run. The highest reading recorded was 1,870  $\mu$ S at Swift Run in June. A full report of the results from the 2003 Monitoring Program is

available for downloading on the HRWC website -- navigate to the HRWC Publications and Reports page.

### PLANS FOR 2004

The 2004 monitoring season will maintain the same level of involvement as 2003 with the long-term expectation that the Monitoring Program will continue for a minimum of three additional years in order to generate five years of data. A minimum of five years of data is necessary to identify trends in water quality. As resources allow, more frequent site visits are planned in order to gather data more representative of weather variations.

### MANY THANKS

The monitoring team was composed of HRWC staff and trained volunteers associated primarily with the University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources & Environment or School of Public Health:

- Nate Bosch
- Janice Brummond
- Steven Hufnagel
- David Katz
- Kyle Meister
- Ron Oldfield
- Steven Parrish
- Chris Riggs
- Elizabeth Riggs
- Randy Schneider
- Baku Takahashi
- Debi Weiker

Generous contributions from the following partners enabled the continuation and growth of this important research and stewardship program:

- Visteon
- The City of Ann Arbor Wastewater Treatment Plant
- The Great Lakes Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey
- University of Michigan Emeritus Professor Dr. Peter Meier
- The Huron River Watershed Council's Adopt-A-Stream Program
- The University of Michigan



The program conducts monitoring at 1 Huron River site and 9 tributary sites located on major tributaries in the middle Huron River. —map: HRWC

- Elizabeth Riggs

# New Tools For Protecting Open Spaces

## Greenbelt Plan is Part of the Solution

This past November residents of the City of Ann Arbor passed a unique and progressive millage that will help to preserve open space in the City limits and to purchase development rights in the surrounding townships. Proposal B authorized a .5 mill tax for 30 years, to replace the existing Land Acquisition Millage of .5 mill that expires in 2004. The millage will provide funds to preserve and protect open space, natural habitats, and the City's source waters inside and outside the City limits.

The preservation of open space resulting from the millage will help relieve the impacts of development in the areas around Ann Arbor that have led to:

- Fragmented open space and wildlife habitat
- Loss of productive farmland and forestland
- Destruction of rural beauty that is part of the region's character
- Decline in water quality due to increased polluted runoff in the Huron River watershed
- Loss of wetlands
- Increased auto dependency, fuel consumption, and air pollution
- Relocation of jobs to peripheral areas
- Increased traffic congestion, commuting times and costs
- Overcrowded schools
- Excessive public costs for school construction, roads and utility extensions to dispersed development

### IMPACT ON THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

City residents voted overwhelmingly for the millage. About one-third of millage revenues will be used to purchase land and conservation easements both within the City limits and inside a greenbelt boundary line outside of the City for the preservation of open space (see map). Two-thirds of millage revenues will continue to be used for the acquisition of parkland as previously approved under the existing millage. Purchases of land, land rights and conservation easements outside the City for the preservation of open space will be made using all available funding sources, such as joint purchase agreements with property owners, townships, cities, and Washtenaw

County; grant funds available from the State of Michigan and the federal government, conservancies and land trusts. For transactions outside the city, purchases will be favored in which the City of Ann Arbor's share of the cost is no more than one-third of the land's appraised value. Acquisitions in which a township or city provides funds will be favored. The principal acquisition method is anticipated to be conservation easements.

### TOWNSHIP INVOLVEMENT

As part of this effort to preserve open space HRWC also applauds the residents of Ann Arbor Township who passed a township PDR millage and the residents of Scio Township who, at the time of this printing, are presenting a township PDR millage proposal.

HRWC supports the establishment of a greenbelt around the City of Ann Arbor for the purposes of open space protection and, as part of these efforts, is also urging the City to move quickly to develop a comprehensive and inclusive strategy to implement the proposed plan. The

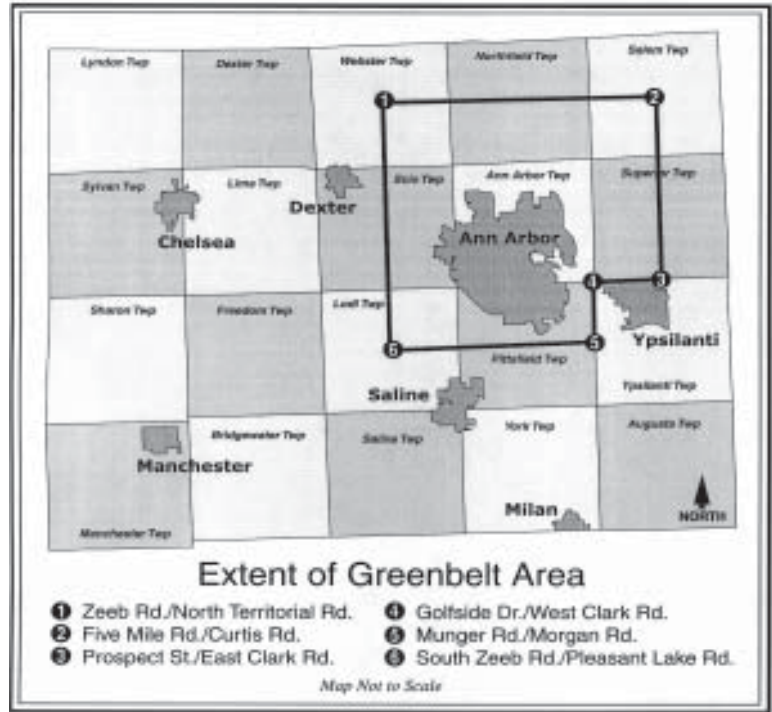
implementation needs to address some key concerns:

- Acquisition of ecologically beneficial lands
- Appropriate development locations and densities
- Affordable housing
- City parks acquisition and maintenance
- Appropriate management of lands
- Appropriate densities where municipal services are available.

We feel strongly that these issues need to be addressed as the greenbelt proposal is implemented in order for the proposal to have the intended effects of preserving open space, encouraging growth in the urban areas, and sustaining the vibrant and high quality of life that Ann Arbor provides.

Open space protection and greater densities in urban areas results in a healthier watershed. Congratulations to all who have made this happen.

- Laura Rubin



Land purchases and conservation easements will focus on parcels within the Greenbelt Area. —map: City of Ann Arbor

# Thank You to Our Business Members

The Huron River Watershed Council would like to thank the following businesses for their business membership this quarter.

## Leader

Camp Dresser & McKee

## Friend

Norfolk Development Corporation  
The Phoenix Company  
Toyota Technical Center, USA Inc.

## Supporter

Atwell-Hicks, Inc.  
Ayres, Lewis, Norris & May  
Bank of Ann Arbor  
Carlisle/Wortman and Associates  
CH2M HILL  
Howard Cooper, Inc.  
Tilton and Associates, Inc

## Member

Ann Arbor Commerce Bank  
Arbor Farms, Inc.  
Ann Arbor Area Trout Unlimited  
First Martin Corporation  
InSite Design Studio, Inc.  
Lindhout and Associates Architects  
Michigan Wetlands Development  
& Construction  
NTH Consultants, LTD  
Washtenaw Engineering Co.

## The Huron River Watershed Council

The Huron River Watershed Council is a coalition of Huron Valley individuals, businesses and local governments established in 1965 under Michigan's Local River Management Act to inspire attitudes, behaviors, and economies that protect, rehabilitate, and sustain the Huron River system. The Watershed Council is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code.

If you enjoy this newsletter, please consider membership. Services of the Council include hands-on citizen education, technical assistance in policy development and direct river protection projects. You will find a membership form on page 10. All contributions are tax deductible.

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# Focus on Tilton & Associates, Inc.

## HRWC Business Partner Highlight

Tilton & Associates, Inc. (TAI) is a private consulting firm that specializes in wetland and water resource management, ecological restoration of natural habitats, and resource policy. This consulting firm, an HRWC Business Partner, provides natural resource protection for a variety of projects in Michigan. The firm's staff of 11 includes ecologists, landscape architects and civil engineers, which results in innovative approaches to natural resource management. Dr. Donald L. Tilton, Ph.D. is President, Jane Tesner Kleiner, RLA is Vice President and Kelly C. Kelly, P.E. is Treasurer of the corporation.

TAI has provided natural resource management consulting to numerous corporations, as well as local governments including Oakland Township, West Bloomfield Township, City of Novi, and Pittsfield Township. TAI has also provided assistance to many HRWC programs and activities. Helping communities plan growth and development while protecting natural features is one of the contributions TAI makes to the protection of natural resources. On a larger scale, working on

teams to prepare watershed protection studies, TAI has completed studies of Malletts Creek, the Middle and Lower Rouge River, Stony Creek, and, recently, a study of Millers Creek in the City of Ann Arbor.

Ecological restoration is an area of professional practice that TAI enjoys providing to their clients. The successful restoration of the Rouge River Oxbow Restoration Project at The Henry Ford Museum is an excellent example of this type of work. This project involved restoring the wetlands in an oxbow on the Rouge River that had been isolated and

filled when the project to line the Rouge River with concrete was completed in the 1970s. Working with a team of engineers and contractors, TAI has restored this habitat and it is an example of the success stories this firm has accomplished working with partners interested in ecological restoration.

**- Ellen Offen and Don Tilton**



*Rouge Oxbow Restoration Project, July 2003.*

—photo: Jane Tesner Kleiner, TAI

## Know Your Board Representative: Eric Piehl



*HRWC board representative for the City of Brighton, Eric Piehl—photo: provided by Eric Piehl*

The Huron River Watershed Council is pleased to have Eric Piehl as its representative from the City of Brighton. We are grateful to the late Herb Munzel, former member from Green Oak Township, for suggesting that Eric join our board of directors.

As a child, Eric played in the streams behind his grandparents' house in Pennsylvania. He backpacked with Boy Scouts in Washington state, and has climbed Mt. Ranier, Mt. St. Helens (before it blew), and Mt. Whitney. His job as a computer programmer with Compuware brought him to Michigan. His middle school daughter said she wanted to be a marine biologist, so Eric looked for marine opportunities. When he learned about HRWC's Adopt-a-Stream Program, he dragged his two children to search the stream for bugs. They have since gone on to other pursuits, but Eric is now a Team Leader in the program.

Eric has taken HRWC's seminar on working with your planning commission and has participated in many Brighton City Council and Planning Commission meetings. He defends the City's interests, educates City officials about watershed issues, and helps with special local projects related to watershed protection. Eric also serves on a wellhead protection committee and is always thinking of creative ways to educate and involve citizens in environmental matters.

Eric is a shining example of someone who has channeled his concern, knowledge, and love for the Huron River Watershed into action. HRWC encourages you to join Eric and other dedicated citizens to get involved in protecting our watershed. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, call Eric at (810) 220-0991 or HRWC at (734) 769-5123.

**-Eunice Burns**

# Millers Creek Study Concludes

*Improvement Plan is Now Available*

After 18 months of study, the Millers Creek Action Team\* has completed its report of current conditions and recommendations to improve the creek.

Recommendations include:

- “Boulder drops” (installing large boulders to create a rapids) in Millers Creek to reduce the water’s force
- Infiltration basins to mitigate the effects of impervious surface in the creekshed
- A Yard Waste Management Program to reduce the amount of leaves and other yard waste that enters Millers Creek.

To learn more about the Millers Creek Project and to download the improvement plan visit [www.aamillerscreek.org](http://www.aamillerscreek.org).



*Installing boulder drops, like those shown here, are one recommendation of the Millers Creek Improvement Plan. —photo: Frederick-Winchester Service Authority*

You can help improve Millers Creek.

- Contact Joan Martin at (734) 769-5971 or [jmartin@hrwc.org](mailto:jmartin@hrwc.org) if you would like to monitor the creek.
- To help with planting trees in the Millers Creek watershed, contact Harry Sheehan at [sheehan@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:sheehan@ewashtenaw.org)

*\*The Millers Creek Action Team is a volunteer group of watershed stakeholders including businesses, community representatives, and local and state regulators.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### STREAM QUALITY MONITORING

We are looking for individuals with experience in monitoring water quality or who can attend a training this spring to be Stream Monitors. Minimum time commitment is 2-3 hours per month plus training. Program runs from May to September. Contact Elizabeth at [eriggs@hrwc.org](mailto:eriggs@hrwc.org) or (734) 769-5123 x4.

### HRWC LIBRARY

HRWC seeks someone who can contribute 3-4 hours a month to maintain our resource library. Basic PC computer experience is the only knowledge required. Contact Chris Riggs at [cmriggs@hrwc.org](mailto:cmriggs@hrwc.org) or (734) 769-5123 x5.

## Thank You

Starting with this Spring 2004 issue of the “Huron River Report,” we will no longer list our new and renewing members in each newsletter. HRWC reluctantly made this editorial decision in order to have more space for articles and information about the Huron River and about HRWC pro-

grams. Recognizing everyone who makes a contribution to our programs is important; we will continue to send thank you notes and invite our donors to special events. We will also list their names prominently in our Annual Report. the 2003 Annual report can be viewed on our website at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org).

Thank you to all our donors. With your continued help, we will be able to keep the Huron River Watershed beautiful and healthy.

Yes, I want to help the Huron River Watershed Council protect and restore the Huron River.

Here are my 2004 member dues:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Mink             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Blue Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Friend     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Small Mouth Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Mayfly     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Supporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Green Heron      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Steward    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$___ Other     |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# I Pledge Allegiance to the Watershed

## Pledge Book Survey Results

In the spring of 2002, the City of Ann Arbor Water Utilities contracted with HRWC to send a "pledge book" to 22,500 residents. In the booklet, homeowners were asked to review actions they already take, plus pledge further actions they will take to help protect water quality. Areas of pledge suggestions included lawn care practices, storm drain awareness, automotive care, home toxics disposal, water conservation, re-use and recycling. Over 1,000 residents sent in their pledge cards, promising to take action to preserve our water resources.

As a follow-up, a phone survey was conducted to find out how the pledge book may have changed behavior, and what motivated people to return the pledge card. Highlights of the survey include:

- 90% of respondents report having a greater awareness of the issues covered in the pledge book, with over 60% reporting changes in daily or weekly practices related to water and the environment.
- The top three behavior changes mentioned by respondents were water conservation, fertilizer and chemical use reduction or elimination, and increased awareness of and respect for storm drains.
- 50% of respondents report changing their practices in some way to reduce water usage.

- One in four respondents changed their fertilization practices and reduced their use of fertilizers.

- One-half of respondents indicated that their awareness of issues related to storm drains had increased as a result of taking the pledge.

- 74% took the pledge because they thought water preservation was an important issue.

- Respondents had the option to receive a Motawi Tile for display in their home as a reminder of their pledge commitments. 94% requested the tile, and of those recipients, 91% now have the tile displayed inside their home.

- 40% of respondents kept their pledge book for future reference.

A project of this scope represents a substantial investment on the part of the City of Ann Arbor and

HRWC. This follow-up survey reveals the effort was well worth it, with high levels of participation, strong recall rates, and notable levels of behavior change indicated. If you would like to learn more about the details of the City of Ann Arbor Pledge Book and Survey, please contact Jennifer Wolf at (734) 769-5123 ext. 8.

- Chris Riggs

*The City of Ann Arbor Pledge Book was modeled after two west-coast projects: the Watershed Enhancement Team Pledge Book (Salem, Oregon) and the Whatcom Watersheds Pledge Program (Bellingham, Washington). For more information about these initiatives, go to [www.watershedpledge.org](http://www.watershedpledge.org).*



Cover of the Pledge Book sent to more than 20,000 Ann Arbor residents. —design: Christianson Design

## Honk if You Support the Huron!

Here's a great opportunity to show off your HRWC membership and remind others of the urgency to protect the Huron. If you are an HRWC member and want a bumper sticker that tells everyone that you belong and reminds them that the Huron needs protection, then you may contact Ellen at (734) 769-5123 x1 or [eoffen@hrwc.org](mailto:eoffen@hrwc.org). If you are not a member but would like a bumper sticker, then please contact Ellen and she can help you get a bumper sticker to show your support for the Huron River.



*What's next - billboards? Don't count on it. But bumper stickers are now available for members who prefer to wear their hearts on their fender.*

**The Huron River Watershed Council**  
1100 N. Main St., Suite 210  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 769-5123  
www.hrwc.org

**NONPROFIT**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Permit #435**

*Please examine your mailing label for your HRWC membership expiration date and use that as a reminder to renew. If there is no date, then you may not be a current member of the Watershed Council. Please consider HRWC membership. We need your support. Thanks.*

*The Huron River Watershed Council receives contributions via payroll deduction through EARTH SHARE of Michigan.*



## Thanks to All of Our Supporters!

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

**Yoga Focus** for designating HRWC as an organization that their patrons can donate to when they make up a class.

**Paul Cousins** for helping HRWC recognize the Ann Arbor District Library's Malletts Creek Branch design and construction that protects Malletts Creek.

**Scott Bell** and **Gini Briedenbach** from Limno-Tech, Inc., **Ron Fadoir** from the Oakland County Drain Office, **Bill Stone** from Hubble, Roth, & Clark, Inc., **Chris Carson** from CEI-Alpha Engineering, and **John Enos** from Carlisle/Wortman & Assoc. for sharing their time and expertise on the Technical Review Team for the Norton Creek BMP Project.

**Jim Mudd** for helping our computers realize their full potential and making our work more productive.

**Mary Christianson** for her time reviewing our design materials and updating our logo.

**Graham Lewis** for library cataloguing and Winter Stonefly Search wrap-up.

**Mike Wiley** for giving 37 people a terrific understanding of what rivers do and the impacts of landscape change on our streams at an all-day workshop.

**Mary and Tina Lirones** for making us welcome and comfortable at Pittsfield Township Hall.

**Great Harvest Bread Company** for generously providing delicious breads and cookies to hundreds of people at all Adopt events.

**The remarkable group of 110 resourceful and caring people**, from ages 3 to 83, who braved a snowstorm to drive to their sites and break through the ice that covered many of the streams to find stoneflies swimming underneath.

The folks who set up, staffed, and cleaned up Winter Stonefly Day: **Dave Brooks; Marty Baldwin; Tom Jenkins; John and Sue Lillie; Louise Piranian; Esther Rubin; Jerry Smith; Norma Jean Wade; and Zoli.**