



# Huron River Report

The Newsletter of the Huron River Watershed Council

Summer 2005

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## Beautiful Water

*A brief story of Barton Pond*

Less than a hundred years ago the Huron River meandered through open grazing land on the site of today's Barton Pond. For centuries before that, a Potawatomi village and planting field could be found opposite the mouth of Honey Creek where four trails came together on rich floodplain now covered by the pond. The story of the transformation of the river is a fascinating one, with two principal actors: Gardner Stewart Williams, the gifted engineer who designed the multiple-arch Barton Dam and supervised its construction; and Alex Dow, the president of the Eastern Michigan Electric Co. (later Detroit Edison), who envisioned a series of dams that would use the middle Huron to generate hydroelectric power and at the same time create opportunities to develop lakeside communities.

Barton Dam, constructed between 1912 and 1915, was the first of seven dams reaching downstream as far as Belleville. Williams actually designed and purchased much of the land for two more dams, at Delhi and Dexter, that were not built because of changing economic conditions. The projected impoundment above Dexter would have had approximately six times the area of Barton Pond. A choice stretch of river, designated "country-scenic" under the Michigan Natural Rivers Act (1970) and highly valued by canoeists and kayakers, not to mention fishermen and naturalists, would have been submerged.



*Before Barton Pond.* —Gardner Stewart Williams Papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

The extensive documentary and photographic record left by Gardner Williams, now in the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library, reveals what was involved in transforming the river. In order to build the dam and create what he called

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## What IS That?!?

*A field guide to aquatic phenomena*

Lakes and streams don't always look or behave the way we expect. Something that, at first glance, looks like pollution actually might be a natural phenomenon. Water can be full of strange colors, unidentified blobs, and swimming creatures, all part of the variation and diversity of the aquatic world.

There are all kinds of cool, weird, and fascinating things waiting to be discovered in your nearby lake or stream. Go find out what's living in your world, and what makes it unique.

### **OILY SHEENS**

An oily sheen that reminds you of rainbow puddles in an asphalt parking lot might be from spilled petroleum. A spill of just one gallon of oil is enough to form a film across the surface of a four-acre lake.



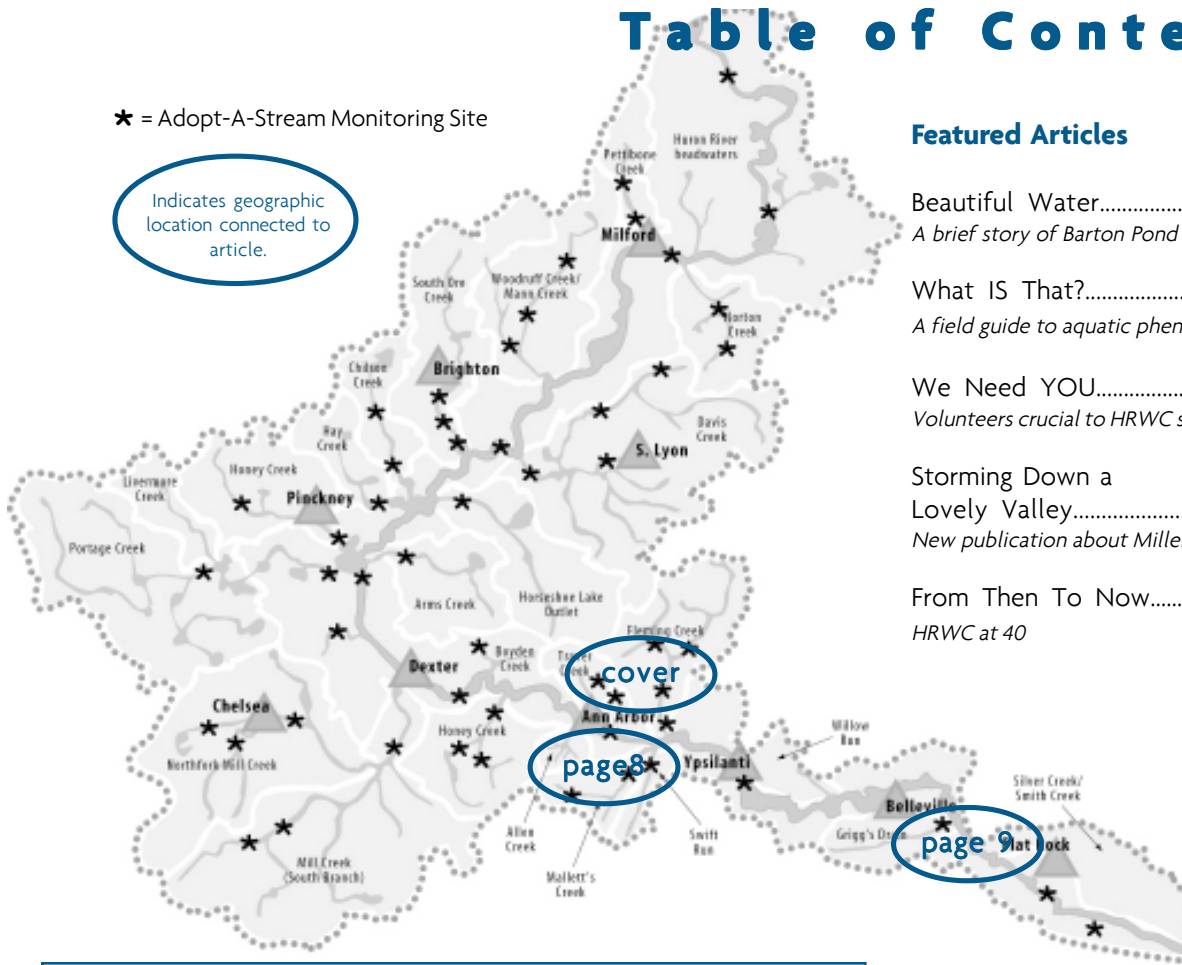
*Oily sheens on the water's surface may result from the decomposition of organic matter.* —photo: Catherine Schmitt

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Indicates geographic location connected to article.



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## 2005 EVENTS

Thursday, Jun 16, 1:00-5:00PM

NEW Center

Thursday, Jun 23

East Lansing

### Protecting Michigan's Wetlands, Options for Local Governments Workshop

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, East Michigan Environmental Action Council, and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council are offering training workshops to help local officials, planning commissioners, local citizens and other decision-makers understand the valuable role local governments can play in wetland protection. The workshops will highlight the following topics: wetland types, wetland functions and values,

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

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

benefits of local wetland protection, how to develop a wetlands ordinance, discussion of a model ordinance, additional land use tools for wetlands protection, wetlands inventory maps, and how to get started

Registration fee is \$35 and advance registration is required. Registration forms available at [www.emec.org](http://www.emec.org) or call (248) 258-5188 or email [emec@aol.com](mailto:emec@aol.com).

Thursday, Jul 21, 5:30-7:30PM

### HRWC Board of Directors Meeting

NEW Center

Call Laura at (734) 769-5123 x2 for location.

# Beautiful Water

*continued from cover*

“Barton Lake,” Williams had to negotiate for land and flowage rights; arrange for the cutting and removal of timber (including 1,450 cords of hardwood and 14,350 linear feet of logs); and negotiate with Olmsted Bros., the Boston landscape architects who landscaped Barton Hills, to grade and fill the approaches to the Barton Dam powerhouse and create a beach. Permission had to be secured to raise Foster Bridge up to five feet, relocate telegraph lines, and lay a temporary spur track for the Michigan Central Railroad. Then there were surprises, like a letter from an attorney for Walter Tubbs requesting compensation for the loss of three and a half acres of flooded farmland.

As the waters rose, residents would have seen the emergence of a manmade landscape in which the hilly north shore of the river took on new prominence, and an inviting lake with grassy, lightly-wooded shores replaced the broad valley and its grazing cattle. A promotional booklet for Barton Hills Country Homes published by the Huron Farms Company in 1931 boasts of “beautiful water” and views of the “picturesque Huron River Valley;” a map highlights the recreational potential of Barton Pond (with a prominent sailboat and swimming dock) and shows housing sites arranged to offer views of the water. Williams’s lake had become by then the more understated “pond,” and a previously undefined landscape was now Barton Hills, the site of what has developed into a unique and highly desirable residential area. Access to Barton Pond has been regulated from its beginnings, with motorboats banned; a proposal for a public boat launch on the south shore was defeated in the 1980s.

Barton Pond today retains its scenic appeal and much of the recreational potential of its earlier years, although the days of swimming from docks and Foster Bridge are long past, and increasing weediness has complicated sailing and made fishing from the bank a questionable proposition. For many years the Barton Boat Club, an independent sailing club that rents a boathouse built in the 1920s from Barton Village, has held regattas for snipes and lasers attracting as many as forty boats. Five years ago the boat club discontinued regattas for the larger snipes because their

rudders prevented them from getting out through the weeds. The Boat Club and residents of Barton Hills have tried to reduce vegetation over the years. They had some success in reducing Eurasian milfoil through the introduction of beetles that feed on it, although the struggle with this and other invasives, such as curly pondweed, as well as with proliferating native vegetation, remains a difficult one. They are campaigning to re-establish winter drawdowns of the sort practiced until 1986 by Detroit Edison before the city took over the operation of Barton Dam. Resumption of the drawdowns has been thwarted by the lack of an agreement between Barton Village and the city about sharing the expense, and about whether sufficient evidence exists that it will prove beneficial and not detrimental.

DNR biologists Paul Seelbach and Jeff Braunscheidel regard Barton Pond as deep enough to maintain a good fishery but observe that as the first of the series of impoundments on the middle Huron it catches all the sediment coming down the stretch of the river below Baseline Lake. Like other dams on the Huron, Barton Dam has had the effect of decreasing biological diversity, for example, by reducing the number of species of freshwater mussels and restricting the movement of fish up and down the river. For Janice Skadsen, who oversees the treatment of water drawn from the pond for Ann Arbor’s use, there are more immediate concerns: zebra mussels threaten to clog intake valves and, because they clarify the water in the pond, encourage the growth of weedbeds; and

storm water runoff, of a kind not seen ten years ago, is dramatically altering the chemistry of the pond, decreasing alkalinity and increasing bacterial growth.

Defenders of the quality of Barton Pond must contend with an array of biological, political, and economic forces, the most formidable of which may be the pressure for development in the watershed, exemplified by a proposed new development of sixty-nine homes immediately upstream (between Tubbs and Maple Roads) that poses the threat of increased nitrogen and phosphorus loading and storm water runoff. As a recent study directed by Professor John Lehman of the University of Michigan (described in the Spring, 2005, issue of *Huron River Report*) has shown, Barton Pond is more vulnerable than had been supposed to algal blooms of the sort that have recently plagued Ford and Belleville Lakes.

All impoundments have finite lifespans because of the continuing influx of sediments and nutrients. Given its relative depth, Barton Pond should last longer than most, but its quality will be strongly affected by the extent to which development fills in the remaining green space in the watershed and by the success of efforts to educate the public about the need to minimize harmful runoff. The wonder with which people must have greeted the emergence of Barton Pond in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century has been replaced by an awareness of the increasing effort it will take to preserve what makes such a resource so appealing.

— John Knott



*The beginnings of Barton Dam, 1912.* —Gardner Stewart Williams Papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

# What IS That?!?

continued from cover

But what about when you are in the woods far from any roads, or walking along the undeveloped shore of a lake? Oily sheens can also come from natural sources. Some bacteria (*Leptothrix discophora*) that live in waterlogged places get their energy from iron and manganese, and as these harmless bacteria grow and decompose, the iron may appear oily or form red or orange films, fluffs, and coatings. *Leptothrix* can also excrete manganese, which looks like blackslime.

How to tell the difference between petroleum spills and natural oil sheens? Poke the sheen with a stick. If the sheen swirls back together immediately, it's petroleum. If the sheen breaks apart and does not flow back together, it is from bacteria or other natural source.

The breakdown of organic matter (plant and animal material) also can leave an oily sheen on the water surface. In the spring and summer, a dark cloud in the water accompanied by an oily sheen could be the outer skeletons of insect cases left behind from a hatch of aquatic insects. The larvae of mayflies and some other aquatic insects molt and shed their skins as they leave the water and become flying adults. The skins are called exuvia. Exuvia can be seen floating on the water or can accumulate on wave-swept shores, where they are sometimes mistaken for fish kills. You can find dragonfly skins attached to docks,

plants, and objects near shore. As exuvia decompose, an oily film sometimes forms on the water surface. A diatom bloom can also leave oil behind as the algal cells die.

## FOAM

Foam is often seen along lake shores and on streams and rivers. Most foam is natural and does not indicate pollution. Foam forms when water is mixed with air, such as by a waterfall or waves breaking against shore. Plants and animals release organic compounds as they decompose, and these compounds lessen the surface tension of water and create bubbles.

Biodegradable detergents and reduction of pollution from wastewater treatment plants have reduced the occurrence of pollution-related foam. If the foam smells fragrant or perfumey, it may be from a nearby spill or waste discharge pipe. Natural foam may smell fishy or earthy, and may be white, off-white, or brownish, and breaks apart easily when disturbed.

## ORANGE SLIME OR FLUFF

Orange stuff is produced by a group of bacteria that use iron as an energy source. This is the same group of bacteria that create oily sheens. Masses of bacteria excrete slimy or fuzzy-looking material as they grow and reproduce, and the slime becomes coated with rusty iron hydroxide. This is usually a natural phenomenon and is generally associated with acidic soils.

However, in large amounts (orange fluff that fills a stream bed) iron bacteria might indicate pollution.

In some areas, iron-rich groundwater may seep to the surface, and the iron drops out as it becomes exposed to air. In this case, the iron will appear as an orange crust or stain, and will not be fuzzy-looking.

## ALGAE BLOOMS

Green or bluish-green scum or film on the surface of a lake, pond, or stream might be a bloom of blue-green algae (not really algae but a group of organisms called cyanobacteria). Lots of algae can also color the water green.

Don't mistake floating plants like duckweed and water meal for algae. Duckweed (*Lemna* spp.) look like miniature lily pads, with a flat, round floating leaf and a tiny root. Water meal (*Wolffia* spp.) also floats but does not have a root; it is a round grain-like plant, about the size of a poppy seed.

The presence of algae in a lake or stream does not mean the water is polluted. A diverse community of algae is healthy. Algae are an important source of food and oxygen for other plants and animals in the water.

Sometimes, certain conditions might favor a species that is normally rare in a lake or stream. With the right temperature, light, and nutrients in the water, the rare organism might multiply rapidly, forming a bloom. When an algae bloom is persistent or occurs routinely, too many nutrients may be entering the water. Nutrients (especially phosphorus) fertilize a lake just as they fertilize your lawn or garden, causing microscopic plants in the lake to grow.

Excerpted with permission from: **Schmitt, Catherine**. 2005. *A Field Guide to Aquatic Phenomena*. Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental & Watershed Research (Orono, ME) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Augusta, ME). Pilot website at <http://www.umaine.edu/waterresearch/FieldGuide/default.htm>



A layer of foam accumulates in a stream pool. —photo: Catherine Schmitt



# We Need YOU

*Volunteers crucial to HRWC success*

Volunteers always have been key to HRWC's successful work to protect the river. Many people, of all ages and from all walks of life, work together or independently to contribute to our efforts. Several exciting volunteer opportunities are on the horizon that are personally rewarding, educational, and just plain fun! Read on to learn about the many interesting ways that people are helping and how you can get involved.

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Most of the outdoor opportunities are group activities organized by the Adopt-A-Stream program that you can join with no prior training. Total time required is usually six hours, often on a Saturday. During River RoundUps in April and September, you can look for the interesting creatures living in the river (without even getting wet!). You can join a team to map and measure stream habitat in the summer. With a little training, you can measure stream flow rates or the amount of sediment carried by a stream. Some volunteers even precisely measure channel shape using surveying equipment. One of the most popular events, which only requires four hours, is searching for winter stoneflies in January.

HRWC is also seeking volunteers to assist with planting native vegetation at two artificial wetland/stormwater demonstration sites that we will be constructing this summer in Wixom. This opportunity is great for individuals, families, or youth groups that enjoy getting dirt under their fingernails for a few weekend hours. No green thumb required.

## ONE-TIME INDOOR ACTIVITIES

HRWC has a number of openings for one-time indoor activities involving individual projects, most of them at your choice of time and pace.

- We have a number of books ready to be entered into our simple library catalog system and then placed on the shelves. Also, the catalog needs to be purged of references to items that are no longer on the shelves.
- People are needed to help at our Adopt-A-Stream monitoring events (2 – 4 hours each), including greeting participants or

organizing and putting away equipment.

- We have equipment in a storage shed that needs organization and inventory, which will require hours or days, but on your schedule.
- An interesting project inviting your creativity is to work with teachers who want to help children learn about water issues in the Huron watershed. You could spend time in a classroom or near a stream, or you could organize HRWC materials for teachers' use. The amount of time spent would be your decision.
- Volunteers are needed to assist in a project to organize and digitize the HRWC photo archive.
- We often need volunteers to join a mailing party on the occasion of a special mailing.

## ONGOING INDOOR ACTIVITIES

A number of on-going activities would benefit enormously from the services of volunteers.

- We constantly gather new data to be entered into the HRWC mailing database.
- Assistance with administering our Local Area Network is needed. This requires a person with expertise in information technology, particularly server management.
- Any GIS experts out there who would be willing to be available for periodic calls for technical assistance, or to take on a project now and then, would benefit us greatly.

Clearly, there are so many ways in which you can help HRWC to protect your watershed. With opportunities indoors and out, for a few hours or longer, and involving a variety of tasks, you're sure to find something that fits your interests and skills. We look forward to hearing from you! For more information about these opportunities, contact Joan Martin at [jmartin@hrwc.org](mailto:jmartin@hrwc.org) or (734) 769-5971.

— Joan Martin



—illustration: Patricia Beals

## Storming Down a Lovely Valley

*New publication about Millers Creek*

HRWC presents "The Millers Creek Report: "Storming Down a Lovely Valley," both on the website ([www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org)) and in a printed version. Millers Creek flows along Huron Parkway in northeast Ann Arbor. This report includes the fascinating history of the watershed — a location of Native American activity, the Underground Railroad and early Ann Arbor enterprise. The creek provides a dramatic example of the effects of unmanaged stormwater. Sections of the report describe local history and current conditions of the creek specific to the neighborhoods in the watershed, as well as pinpointing specific opportunities for improvement. The latter include potential service projects for scouts or school groups.

# From Then: Before It All Began

The Huron River Watershed Council is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. This article is the first in a series about the History of HRWC. To begin, this article chronicles the early origins of HRWC leading up to the formation of a watershed council.

The Huron River is considered to be the cleanest urban river in Michigan. Much of the credit for this status goes to the Huron River Watershed Council and the people who foresaw the need for its protection. Even though the Council has no enforcement powers, it has accomplished its goals through the use of technical data, factual information and citizen stewardship to influence

decisions made by various local agencies.

The origin of the Council goes back to 1956 when a drought period caused severe water shortages in the Detroit Metropolitan area. A controversy between Wayne County and Detroit resulted in a National Sanitation Foundation study to survey present and future water resources and demands in the area.

At the same time, new industrial and subdivision development was occurring in Ann Arbor and eastern

Washtenaw County. Water supply was sufficient, but pollution in the river was a growing problem, especially in the narrow part below Ann Arbor. The State Health Department studied the quality of the river and decided to restrict expansion of any sewage treatment plants.

The Washtenaw County Planning Department was concerned about the impact of this policy on future development and asked the State Water Resources Commission to study the utilization of water in the watershed to help resolve water use and pollution concerns. Among the findings of the report, *Water Resource Conditions and Use in the Huron River Basin*,

was a recommendation that an agency was needed to evaluate the quality of the Huron River on a continuing basis. Public Act 200 of 1957 provided the basis for the local units of government to establish a cooperative information, research and consultative agency to tackle multi-jurisdictional problems. An agency, the Huron River Watershed Intergovernmental Committee (HRWIC), was formed in April 1958. Four counties, eight cities/villages,



1959: Ann Arbor News  
*PLAN RIVER'S FUTURE*: William G. Hayes of Pittsfield Township, Wallace Bowman of the Washtenaw County Planning Commission and William Scheel, chairman of the Washtenaw Board of Supervisors, are key figures in the Huron River Watershed Intergovernmental Committee. The committee, with Scheel as chairman, was formed last year.

# To Now: HRWC at 40

continued from previous page

and twenty townships joined. The purpose of the HRWIC was to study mutual problems relating to water management and use in the Huron River Watershed. Its objective was to sponsor a series of studies that would lead to recommendations for review and action by member governmental units.

The studies focused on the biological and chemical characteristics of the river; groundwater geology and hydrology, and irrigation needs. Based on these studies, an engineering firm was hired to analyze waste disposal and water use in downstream portions of the Huron. Two important recommendations were made:

- 1) the level of treatment by existing sewage treatment plants needed to be increased; and
- 2) an agency should be established to coordinate development of a pollution control program in the watershed.

At the same time, the technical advisory committee of the HRWIC published *A Water Use Policy Development Program* that also strongly recommended the need for an organization to maintain surveillance of the Huron. Enabling state legislation was needed and UM Professor Lyle Craine and others worked to get the Local River Management Act (Act 253 of 1964) passed.

In 1965, seventeen governmental units petitioned the Water Resources Commission to establish the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC).

The petition was granted and in April 1965 the first Watershed Council in Michigan was formed. The office was moved from the Washtenaw County Building to 415 W. Washington in Ann Arbor and Jerome Fulton, a UM graduate student, was hired as a part-time Executive Secretary.

Members of the first Council included twenty-four units of government.

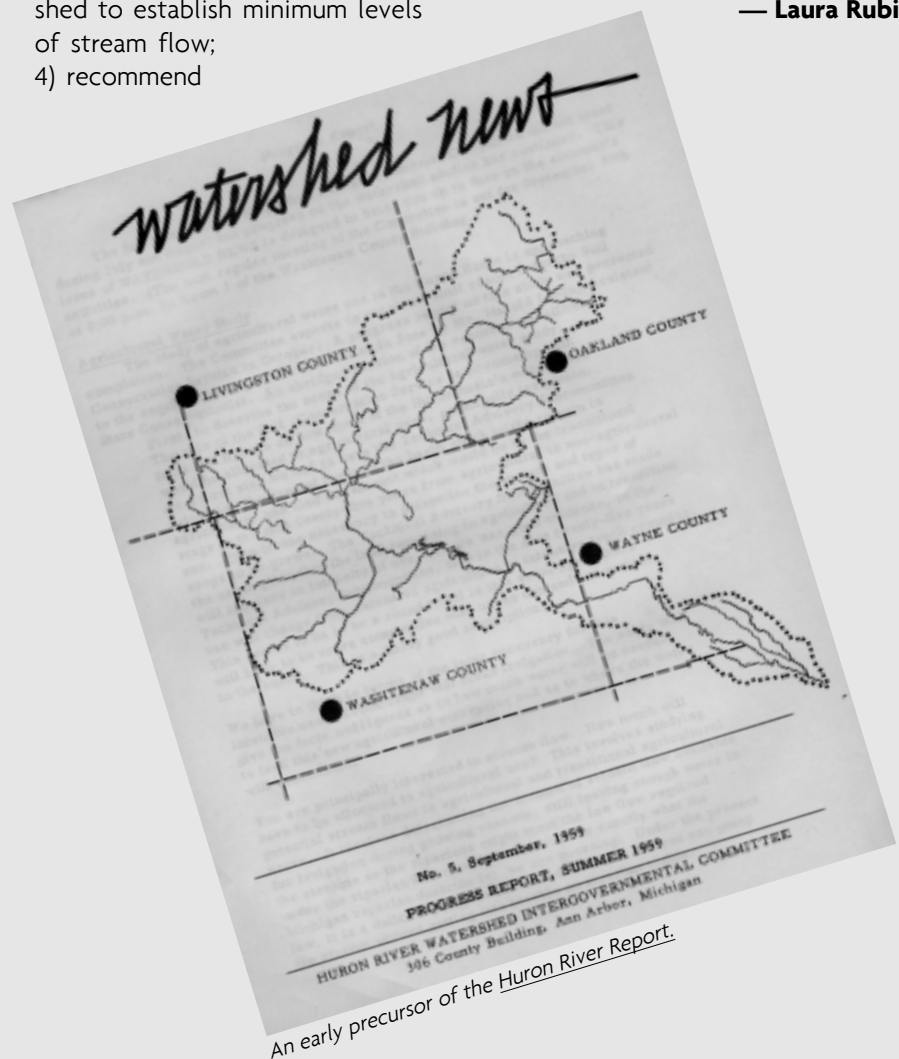
The functions of the Council were to:

- 1) conduct studies;
- 2) give reports;
- 3) request the Water Resources Commission to survey the watershed to establish minimum levels of stream flow;
- 4) recommend

- 5) establish of a River Management District when needed;
- 6) advise agencies of problems and needs of the watershed;
- 7) cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies;
- 8) employ an executive secretary and such other personnel as needed and within budget;
- 9) form sub-committees or advisory committees as needed; and,
- 9) seek special project funds as needed.

Find out what happens next. Read the next issue of the Huron River Report, due out this Fall.

— Laura Rubin



# Know Your Board Representative

Jan BenDor, Pittsfield Charter Township

The board representative to the Huron River Watershed Council from Pittsfield Charter Township is Jan BenDor. She is the Deputy Clerk for the township where, among other duties, she manages the setting up and running of elections. Jan also serves as the township's Storm Water Program Coordinator and Grants Coordinator.

Jan's priorities have long been the protection of our water resources, conserving wildlife habitat and creating recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of nature. She is a charter member of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, which has protected over 2000 acres in the region. The first township farmland protection plan in Washtenaw County was written by a task force that Jan formed while she was a Superior Township Trustee.

With her husband and two grown sons, she enjoys hiking, swimming, camping and sailing their 16-foot "Hobie" catamaran on Michigan lakes. She is an avid hockey fan and player—on travel and house teams, as well as on the backyard pond.

Jan is a firm believer in community involvement. She appreciates that the success of the Huron River Watershed Council's river restoration and protection efforts to date reflect the Council's ability to attract large numbers of citizen volunteers for hands-on projects. In Pittsfield, volunteers listen for frogs and toads, label storm drains, design greenways, plant native gardens, monitor blue bird nesting boxes, eradicate invasive plants from the parks, and conduct many other projects.



HRWC Board Representative for Pittsfield Township, Jan BenDor. — photo: courtesy of Jan BenDor

For more information about participating, call Jan at (734) 822-3122 or HRWC at (734) 769-5123.

— Eunice Burns

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# Visteon Corporation

*HRWC business partner spotlight*

Environmental stewardship is a high priority for Visteon Corporation, a global automotive supplier based in Van Buren Charter Township. As part of its commitment to the sustainable use of renewable natural resources and efficient use of non-renewable natural resources, Visteon has proudly partnered with HRWC in its efforts to monitor and manage the quality of the water and wildlife habitat in southeastern Michigan.

When Visteon launched as an independent company in 2000, it established environmental protection as one of the organization's seven Core Values. With approximately 70,000 employees and more than 200 facilities in 25 countries and five continents, Visteon's efforts to protect and improve the environment are a global mission. That mission begins on the local level, with grassroots groups such as HRWC.

"HRWC's activities are precisely the type of initiatives that Visteon looks to support to demonstrate our dedication to environmental responsibility and to contribute to the communities in which we do business," said Matt Roman, Visteon's manager of environmental affairs.

Visteon helped fund both HRWC's Middle Huron River Watershed Initiative and Adopt-A-Stream program. "Both of these programs," said Roman, "were a great way for Visteon and HRWC to work together to accomplish mutual goals."

In addition to funding these projects, more than 30 Visteon employees volunteered at a 2003 Huron River clean-up at French Landing along the banks of Belleville Lake.

Some of Visteon's other environmental achievements include:

- Being one of only three automotive suppliers named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which includes more than 300 companies from 23 countries that lead their industry in practicing "corporate sustainability" — a "business approach that creates long-term shareholder value by embracing opportunities and managing risks deriving from

economic, environmental and social developments." Visteon was named to the Index for the fourth consecutive year in 2004.

- Recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of Visteon's Sheldon Road manufacturing facility, in Plymouth, for consistently surpassing legal environmental requirements and implementing high-quality environmental management systems. The plant is a member of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership and maintains a certified wildlife habitat area designated by the National Wildlife Habitat Council.

- Visteon's Monroe plant being recognized by the Wildlife Habitat Council for contributing to wildlife conservation in wetlands adjacent to the plant. The Monroe plant is adjacent to Lake Erie, bordered on the south by the River Raisin, on the north by Sterling State Park and on the west by other wetlands. The facility consists of 500 acres with 200 acres containing parking lots, production areas and two closed hazardous waste impoundments situated on a central island. The remaining 300 acres are comprised of intercoastal wetlands and transitional meadows and forests.

- The planning and construction of Visteon Village, the 265-acre corporate campus in Van Buren Charter Township, in accordance with the guidelines of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). LEED provides a comprehensive framework for achieving sustainability goals based on industry-accepted scientific standards. It emphasizes high-quality solutions for sustainable site development, energy efficiency, water savings, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

**— Chris Walton, Visteon Corporation  
with Ellen Offen**



*A Visteon employee volunteers for one of the numerous environmental stewardship activities that the company participates in each year. — photo: Visteon Corporation*

# A Nip and a Tuck

*Makeovers for HRWC website and strategic plan*

HRWC staff and board are undertaking two big projects that will help us to be more effective and reach our goals. Those goals are being refined right now as we undertake updating our strategic plan. HRWC is developing a five-year strategic plan using our previous plan as a starting point. After soliciting input from external and internal surveys, HRWC staff and board members held a retreat to discuss what we do well and what we need to improve. Present and future opportunities and challenges were discussed, as well as goals and measurable objectives to guide HRWC. We will be working on refining the plan through the Fall and will share it with you if you are interested.



*Staff and board enjoy a beautiful spring day at the end of the strategic planning session. —photo: HRWC*

In addition, we are updating our website, [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org), to be more user-friendly, informative, and more consistent in style. Layout and organization of the site is

complete; content will be updated in the next few months. Watch the HRWC website in the Fall for a new look and more comprehensive information.

*Thank you to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and the River Network for assistance in making these projects happen.*



*A stretch of Davis Creek that has not lost its "clothing" of trees. —photo: George DeAngelis*

## Wisdom from the Ancients

*Classic philosopher recognized the values of conservation*

"There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings...while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it."

—Plato: *Dialogue of Critias*,  
360 B.C.E

## Business Members

*Thanks to these businesses for joining or renewing their memberships and helping to protect the Huron*

### **BENEFACTOR**

Camp, Dresser & McKee (CDM)

### **STEWARD**

CH2M HILL

### **SUPPORTER**

MAV Development Company  
Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Smith Group/JJR LLC  
Ayres, Lewis, Norris & May  
Norfolk Development Corporation  
Hobbs & Black Architects  
Bank of Ann Arbor  
Wade-Trim

### **FRIEND**

MidWest Financial Credit Union  
Chelsea State Bank  
O'Neal Construction Company  
Domino's Farms Corporation  
NSF International



# The State of the Huron 2005

Highlights of a successful day



We celebrate our 40th Anniversary with a tasty cake from Whole Foods.

— photo: Mark Akemann



Conference keynote speaker Keith Schneider, of the Michigan Land Use Institute, challenges the audience to focus on smart growth principles.

— photo: Gregory Fox



Above: HRWC President Paul Cousins presents raffle winner Colleen Hughes with the top prize -- a canoe donated by Meyers Boat Company, Michicraft, and CDM.

— photo: Mark Akemann

Right: HRWC volunteer award winners Noemi Barabas, Mike Lemon, John and Tui Minderhout, and Ron Sell

— photo: Mark Akemann



## 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 below. All contributions are tax deductible.

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

Here are my 2005 member dues, mailed to: Huron River Watershed Council

1100 N. Main St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Mink            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Blue Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Friend     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Smallmouth 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**The Huron River Watershed Council**  
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www.hrwc.org

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*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 Our Supporters!

### We extend Special Thanks to:

**Tom and Ann Gladwin, JD Lindeberg and Carol Tucker, and Lenore Gerstein** for hosting warm, wonderful parties to interest people in the Huron River Watershed Council and the Huron River.

**Tom and Ann Gladwin** for providing a cozy, pleasant space for our strategic planning retreat.

**Roy Schrameck (ECT, Inc.), Michelle LaRose and Marcus MacDonell (OHM), Dan Swallow (Van Buren Charter Township), and Matt Best, Mike Flowers, N. Gregor, Noel Mullett, and S. Thompson (Wayne County Dept of Environment)** who completed rapid stream assessments in the Lower Huron River Watershed.

**John and Ruth Langs** for hosting Art on the River at their lovely home on an island in the Huron.

**Mark Braun** for his wonderful music at the Art on the River event.

**The Ann Arbor Art Association** for the beautiful art at the Art on the River event.

**Ron Sell** for canoeing the night away at the Art on the River event.

**Wes Vivian** for hosting a reception to meet and talk with Keith Schneider, keynote speaker at our State of the Huron Conference.

**Lori Beyer** for reviewing our surveying procedures with the HRWC Geomorphic Team.

**Dave Brooks, Gary Hochgraf, John Lillie, Don Rottiers and Nancy Stokes** for surveying study sites on Mill Creek with excellent skill.

The 21 people who have adjusted their schedules in order to carefully measure flow and maintain transducers on Fleming, Mill and Millers Creek.

**Sabra Briere** for organizing a delicious set of refreshments for the Fleming Creek Summit and to her several volunteers who baked cookies.

**John Allison, Janis Bobrin, Marcia Van Fossen, Jerry Hancock and John Rintamaki** for sharing their techniques and concerns for creek protection at the Fleming Creek Summit.

**Marianna McEvoy** for designing the flier that urges people to plant trees.