Huron River Report

The Newsletter of the Huron River Watershed Council

Spring 2006

"Crossing" the Huron p 6
Preserving the Watershed p 9
Spotlight on a Member p 10

Natural Wonders

Rare plants and animals spotted in the 'shed

A flock of ducks dabbling along the water's edge. Brilliant leaves swirling down onto a quiet meadow in autumn. Deer nibbling on new spring grass. These are common natural encounters in the Huron River Watershed, readily accessible to anyone who has a little time to spend on a trail or in a canoe. However, with a little more time and a bit of knowledge about where to look – and what to look for – you might be fortunate enough to see some of the rarer plants and animals that recently have been spotted right here in your watershed, all of which serve as a testament to the high quality resources that HRWC is working constantly to protect.

AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY

Adopt-A-Stream volunteer John Cramer photographed some interesting fish in Fleming Creek in 2003 and sent the photographs to HRWC for identification. We identified them as American brook lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*), a non-parasitic native lamprey that lives in gravel or sand riffles in creeks, and in small to medium rivers with strong flow and clean water. This harmless lamprey should not be confused with invasive, parasitic sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) that has had a disastrous effect on lake trout in the Great Lakes. While not threatened, these fish are rarely encountered due to their small size. Unlike other lampreys, the American brook lamprey may engage in communal spawning with 20 to 40 individuals in a single large nest; such a spawning event was likely in progress when these lampreys were encountered in Fleming Creek.

KENTUCKY COFFEE-TREE

The Kentucky coffee-tree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*) is an MNFI species of Special Concern – a category meaning that, while not listed as threatened or endangered

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American brook lamprey spawning in Fleming Creek.

—photo: John Cramer

What's Special About Davis Creek?

Spotlight on a northeastern creekshed

The beauty of Davis Creek.

—illustration: Watercolor by George DeAngeles

Davis Creek is one of the loveliest yet under-appreciated tributaries of the Huron River. Draining an area of 68 square miles in southeast Livingston, southwest Oakland, and northeast Washtenaw counties, the Davis Creekshed is also one of the largest in the Huron River Watershed.

Although many parts of Davis are still pristine and lovely, this creek is experiencing the same pressures we see throughout the Huron River Watershed.

A RICH HISTORY

Many things distinguish Davis as a fascinating and important tributary watershed. Historic glacial movements made the area rich in gravel deposits; it was the site of the largest sand and gravel operation in the United States in the late 1920s. The removal of these gravel deposits created large lakes in the area through which the creek runs.

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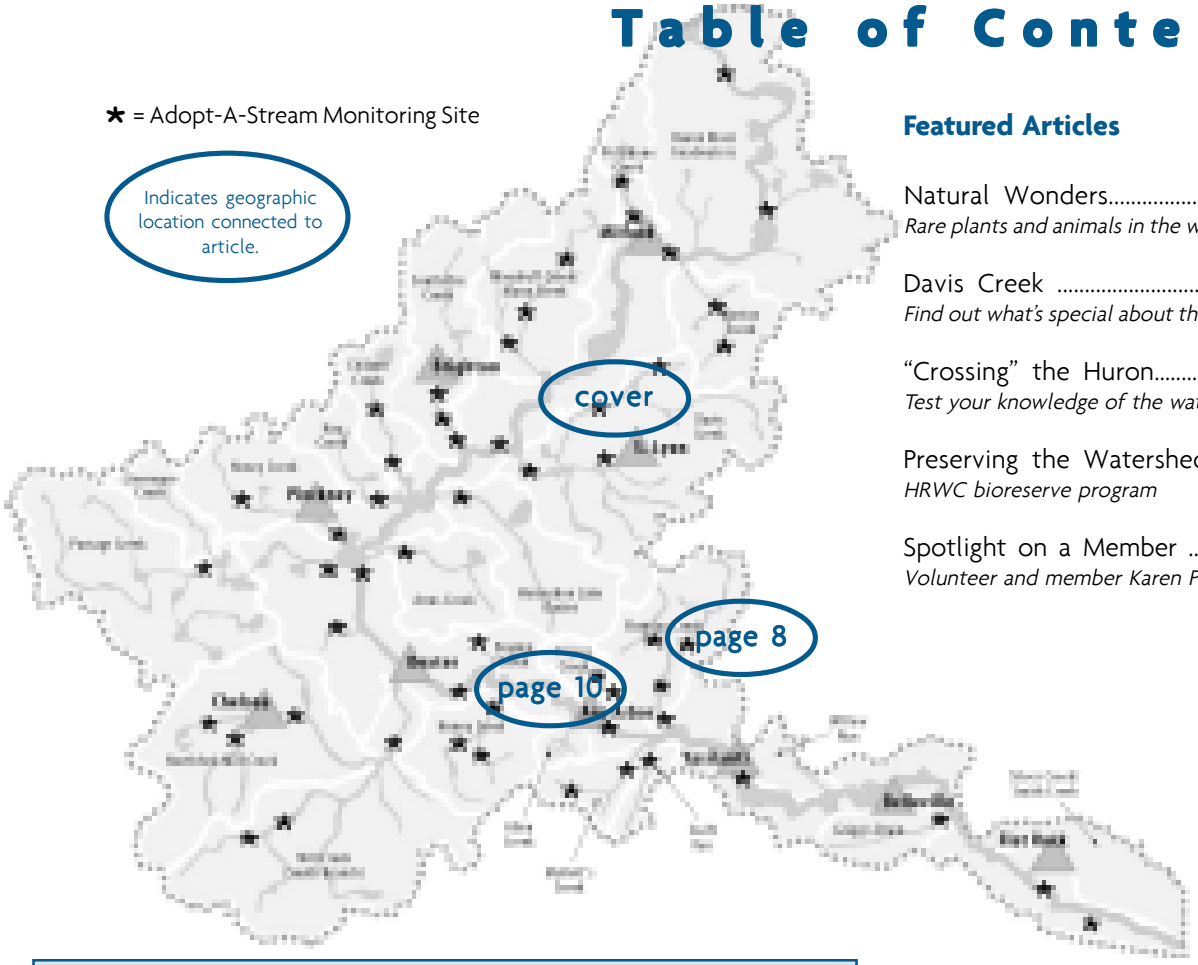

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2005/2006 EVENTS

Thursday, Mar. 23 - 5:30 pm
HRWC Executive Committee Meeting
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Contact Laura (734) 769.5123 x 12

Saturday, April 1, Noon – 5 pm
Adopt-A-Stream Leadership Training
NEW Center
Call Joan at (734) 769-5123 x 11

Saturday, April 22, 9 am – 5 pm
Adopt-A-Stream River RoundUp
Entire Watershed
Call Joan at (734) 769-5123 x 11

Thursday, April 27 - 5:30 pm
HRWC Annual Meeting
Location TBD
Contact Laura (734) 769-5123 x 12

Saturday, April 29, 8 am - 5 pm
Hamburg Township Huron River Clean-Up Day
Contact Robert Demyanovich at rdemyano@hotmail.com, or visit www.hamburg.mi.us to find out how you can get involved.

Friday, May 5, 4–6 pm
Millers Creek Film Festival
Michigan Theater (Ann Arbor)
See page 6 for more details
Call Joan at (734) 769-5123 x 11

Sunday, May 7, Noon – 5 pm
Adopt-A-Stream ID Day
NEW Center
Call Joan at (734) 769-5123 x 11

More events and updates on the web at: 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

What's Special About Davis Creek?

continued from cover

Some segments of Davis Creek contain healthy populations of endangered and threatened species of fish and mussels, such as the snuffbox and the wavey-rayed lamp mussel. The short stretch from Sandy Bottom Lake to the Huron River is designated a "Natural River Zone" by the state of Michigan (one of only three creeks so zoned in the Huron River Watershed). This ensures a 50 foot vegetative buffer and a 125 foot building setback be enforced in an attempt to keep a buffer between the water and human development.

Some areas of Davis Creek are slow-moving and deeper, while other areas move quickly with shallow riffles. Such variation in water velocity and depth provides habitat for a wide range of aquatic creatures with different living needs. The Davis Creek Report (The Quality of a Hidden Treasure, Martin & Dakin, 2003) found that two sites on Davis Creek were among the healthiest sites studied in the entire Huron River Watershed. This conclusion was based upon the high levels of insect diversity, especially sensitive insect families, whose presence indicate excellent stream conditions.

Don Rottiers, David Reichhardt and Carrie Turner measure the width and depth as part of a habitat assesment. —photo: HRWC

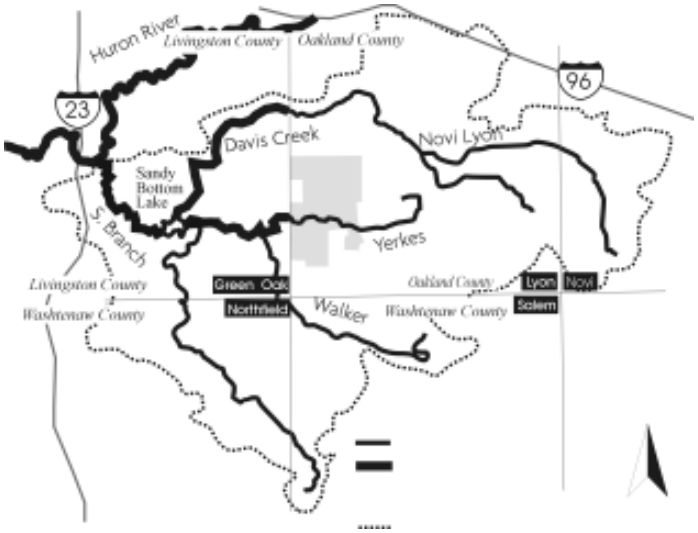
A TENUOUS FUTURE

Sadly, the same report also found signs that this diversity may be declining, along with the overall conditions of the creek. Yerkes Drain, which flows through the City of South Lyon and into Nichwagh Lake, has suffered from industrial pollution for decades, including a devastating oil spill in the 1970s from a metal fabricating plant. This spill left oil soaked into the soil along the drain. Today, this plant, as well as a wastewater treatment facility, has a state permit to discharge its wastewater into Yerkes Drain. Stormwater runoff from downtown South Lyon also drains into Yerkes, adding more pollution to the stream.

People who live in these areas know the branches of the creek by a variety of names, due to the many drains created in the early 20th century to make the wetlands more conducive to farming (see map below).

Many of the lower branches of the stream network remain relatively undeveloped, but the creek does run through areas that are developing at a rapid rate, such as South Lyon and Green Oak and Lyon townships.

As the percentage of urban land steadily rises, the increase in stormwater runoff and loss of open and natural lands have taken their toll on Davis Creek. Silt and dirt are filling the stream bottom, suffocating life there. This muck originates largely from stormwater runoff that hasn't had a chance to be absorbed or filtered because of the amount of impervious surface and lack of plants and trees that result from rapid development. Certain areas have shown consistently high conductivity in the water, indicating the possible presence of toxic substances.



The Davis Creek.watershed (dotted line) covers 68 square miles in three counties.

—illustration: Gary Hochgraf

DAVIS CREEK STEWARDS NEEDED

Even people living far from the actual banks of the streams or lakes have an effect upon the quality of the creek, because all rain falling on this land eventually flows to the creek, carrying with it oil and pesticides from lawn care and various other pollutants.

Everyone living or working in the creekshed impacts its water quality. You can help protect Davis Creek. Here's how:

- Go to www.hrwc.org "individuals can help" to learn how your actions impact the Creek.
- Visit the Creek with the Adopt-A-Stream volunteer monitoring program.
- Learn more about the Creek by reading the Davis Creek Report at www.hrwc.org/1publications.htm.
- Help your local community make thoughtful decisions about water quality during their planning and zoning processes.

— Amrita Vijayaraghavan

Natural Wonders

continued from cover

under the Endangered Species Act, their rarity or decline has been noted and protection is highly recommended to avoid the species becoming endangered in Michigan. While often planted as a street tree, the Kentucky coffee-tree is naturally found along stream corridors. The more moderate microclimate of stream corridors protects the coffee tree from budding too early in the spring, when there is still risk of frost that would damage the sensitive buds. Trees with similar sensitivity include sycamores and redbuds, among which the coffee tree is often found. The Kentucky coffee-tree produces large, fat seed pods that look similar to those of a locust tree. When mature, these pods fall from the tree into the nearby stream, which carries the pods and helps distribute the tree's seeds. In our watershed, the Kentucky coffee-tree can be found growing along the Huron River in the northern part of Hudson Mills Metropark. A nice specimen can also be found in U-M Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor!

AMERICAN BEAK GRASS

Associate Program Leader with the Botany arm of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), Ryan O'Connor, was impressed with the "very significant" finding of multiple populations of American Beak Grass along the lower Huron River. Three Metroparks host four of the six best populations in Michigan. American Beak Grass is found exclusively in floodplain forests where some light filters through gaps in the tree canopy. The plant's range extends as far north in Michigan as Tuscola and Ionia counties. According to MNFI, "Beak Grass (*Diarrhena americana*) is a state-threatened species found primarily in southern floodplain forests... Occurrences discovered and confirmed at several Metroparks in the Lower Huron River watershed are unusually large and make up four of the top six populations in the state. Combined, they form a metapopulation stretching 10 miles (15-20 miles of meandering river floodplain) from Belleville to Flat Rock and comprise an estimated 75% of the state-wide population. This species can be recognized throughout the growing season but is most easily identified in August and September by its clumped, shiny leaves and characteristic inflated 'spikelets.'"

Flowering fruit on American beak grass. —photo: Ryan O'Connor, MNFI

A white lady slipper orchid in a Washtenaw County wetland. —photo: Janet Pernadino

WHITE LADY-SLIPPER

Washtenaw County Naturalist Faye Stoner reports finding white lady-slipper orchids (*Cypripedium candidum*), another state-threatened species, at Washtenaw County's Park Lyndon North, on new acreage that was purchased and added to the park just in the last five years. Park staff discovered the plant while conducting an inventory on some newly-acquired wetland property. More than 100 of the delicate, white-pouched flowers were in bloom in the area, a sensitive and high-quality wetland bordered by state-owned land. In Michigan, the white lady-slipper is found only in the south, and occurs primarily in prairie fens with groundwater inputs, commonly near lake and stream systems. The white lady-slipper can be identified by the short stature of the plant (around 20 cm), an ivory-white flower pouch, which may be faintly streaked with purple veins, and lateral flower petals that are pale yellow-green and spirally twisted.

BEAVER

Last December, participants in the first county-led hike on Washtenaw County's newly purchased Stokes-Burns property (which borders the Huron River in Scio Township) learned from Stoner that they had a surprise awaiting them. Suzy Morse, one of the hikers, recounted her observations of beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity. "We saw new and older stumps that clearly were left by beavers chewing down trees, with characteristic teeth chip marks." No beaver dams or lodges were seen in the area, so the hikers pondered where the beavers responsible for the chewing might live. In fact, some beavers live in burrows in stream banks with underwater entrances. If you want to see these amazing stumps, and perhaps catch a glimpse of a beaver, the park is located on the west side of Zeeb Road on the north side of the river.

BALD EAGLE

Last spring, several HRWC staff spotted a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) soaring over Argo Pond near our offices. In late November, Dea Armstrong, ornithologist with the City of Ann Arbor, had a breathtaking encounter with our national bird near Barton Pond. "I headed upstream a bit into Foster Nature area to get a better look at some ducks I had been looking at

continued on next page

Natural Wonders

continued from previous page

An original watershed resident, Castor canadensis.
—photo: Illinois DNR

from the edge of Barton Pond," she explained. "As I approached the 'cove-like area' on the western/southern side of the river, I flushed a mature bald eagle with a very small bit of brown on its white tail. Moments later a second, completely white-tailed bird followed the other bird upstream towards Foster Bridge. One bald eagle could be an Aha! moment in my book...two of them just blew me away!"

These rare sightings are only a sample of the natural bounty that makes the Huron River Watershed unique and precious. If you have encountered an interesting plant or animal in the watershed, we would love to hear about it! For more information about the special plants and animals of the Huron River Watershed and throughout Michigan, we encourage you to visit the Michigan Natural Features Inventory at www.msue.msu.edu/mnfi.

— Jo Latimore and Elizabeth Riggs

Laura's "Stream" of Consciousness

An update of HRWC projects

ROCK RIDGE PERMIT DENIED
Some good news to start the year off — The MDEQ denied the wastewater treatment permit application to discharge to the Huron River from a proposed 1600 home development in Superior Township. Rock Construction was proposing to build its own private wastewater treatment system that would add additional phosphorus to the Middle Huron (already under Clean Water Act TMDL regulations to reduce phosphorus) and use an unproven technology. The permit denial is good news for our TMDL efforts and for upholding the Clean Water Act.

IN THE NEWS AND IN YOUR MAILBOX
Last October you may have received a calendar from HRWC. We designed the calendar, mailed to 70,000 residents, with monthly tips so that peole could learn to help protect the river from the comfort of their own homes. You may also have seen our ads in local newspapers in December. HRWC produced and ran newspaper advertising on stormwater management and education.

ANN ARBOR MANUFACTURED FERTILIZER ORDINANCE
The City of Ann Arbor has passed a phosphorus reduction ordinance that restricts the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. The ordinance is noteworthy for starting with the assumption that the soil does not require more phosphorus, and that the burden to show otherwise is up to the property owner through a soil test. An analysis of previous soil tests shows that 85% of the soils within the Ann Arbor area do not need additional phosphorous. Also, the City met with retailers, distributors, and applicators of fertilizers during development of the ordinance to improve the likelihood of the ordinance's effectiveness.

NEW FINDS IN THE HURON
In the past year we've found two sensitive insect species in streams where we weren't expecting them and haven't seen them in the past. The streams are Millers and Malletts Creeks, two highly urban streams that are considerably flashy and choked with sediment and pollutants. While these may be rogue critters rather than evidence of established populations, they are good signs that the focused protection and restoration efforts in these creeks can make a difference.

A NEW KIND OF DEVELOPMENT
Following up on a story from the Winter 2005 issue of the *Huron River Report*, "Drinking Water: the Other Land Use Story," I outlined some of the steps we can take to mitigate the impact of sprawl on water quality. One important step is to encourage urban density where appropriate with new housing located within areas already served by sewers, schools, and roads. We're starting to see some innovative ideas throughout the watershed. In Ann Arbor, where space is at a premium, a proposed development is offering a bicycle and a pair of walking shoes with each unit -rather than a parking space. Many new downtown developments don't come with a parking space, and parking is at a premium. I'm also hearing more and more buzz (and demand) for a car-sharing program. It's not simply about buying an apartment or house, but about choosing a lifestyle. While it will not always be possible to walk or bike to your destination, providing incentives for doing so at least some of the time will help encourage walkable, bikeable communities that help preserve the watershed.

Bald eagle. —photo: Steve Hillebrand, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

— Laura Rubin

"Crossing" the Huron

Test your knowledge of the watershed! (Answers will be provided in the next issue...)

ACROSS:

1. Kent, Brighton, Belleville, Ford
2. caddisfly's portable home
3. another word for scat
4. creates an impoundment: the Huron has 96
5. municipal sanitation system
6. maintain, protect, save
7. makes plants grow
8. a process that can clog creeks and the river (hint: dirt)
9. toxic blue-green _____ has been found in several ponds
10. two or more things joined together
11. riparian land owners can install one to protect the water
12. an expression of the negative or opposite
13. of a bird
14. helps a lawn, but hurts the river
15. for instance
16. signs of this water-loving mammal (hint: it's very busy!) were recently found in the central watershed
17. therefore
18. decaying vegetation depletes the water of this essential element
19. abbreviation for inch
20. dwarf lake ____ is a flower native to our state
21. the Huron River is 125 _____ long
22. a beautiful way to keep water on-site
23. pull it, embrace it, don't spray it
24. test this before you fertilize
25. another word for part of a tributary or creek
26. the HRWC logo
27. wrap it and put in trash, not down the toilet
28. new lawn
29. a distinguishable class
30. a bird that hunts fish along the river (hint: it's not really bald)
31. frozen water
32. water-loving weasel
33. "the river dances along its banks"
34. to employ for a purpose; to put into action
35. A River ____s Through It
36. Swedish warship or cross-country ski trail
37. make less harsh, hostile, severe or painful
38. to watch, check or observe
39. personal home sanitation system
40. ____ weed: smallest flowering plant, found in ponds
41. out West, it's over water; here it's over land use
42. "drain ____" used in farm fields to reduce flooding

DOWN:

1. bring it on a stream search to keep your stomach quiet
2. water analyst for me
3. phosphorus is banned in detergents, except this one
4. the HRWC board has 55 of these, representing 41 communities
5. to move through the water, sans boat
6. name for water that leaves a site and often carries pollutants
7. the terrestrial stage of some newts
8. find this insect along the water in winter, it's a good sign
9. stream or creek (the Huron has 370 miles of them)
10. snails, mollusk and turtles all have one
11. plants and animals that don't belong
12. ivy to avoid in the field
13. the Huron _____ Watershed is 908 square miles
14. a direct connection from street to river
15. one part of a watershed
16. to divide into sections reserved for different purposes
17. a law, a municipal regulation
18. of or along the river, stream or lake
19. Milford is in this part of the watershed
20. driveways, roads, rooftops, parking lots
21. acts like a sponge for the watershed
22. if this is exposed along the creek, it's not a good sign
23. source of drinking water from an aquifer
24. "It's as clear as the ____ on your face."
25. one stage of a true bug's life
26. too much in the water causes sexual mutations in fish
27. transports water
29. of the water
30. French for "water"
31. The Huron River drains into this Great Lake
32. "_____ Plan" - communities in the watershed have one of these to help plan their future
37. you get this when it rains

The winner of a random drawing of all the correct entries received at our office by April 3, 2006, will receive the book "*Confluence: A River, the Environment, Politics, & the Fate of All Humanity*"" by Nathaniel Tripp and a $10 gift certificate donated by our friends at

Mail your entry to:
HRWC
Attn: J. Wolf
1100 N. Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

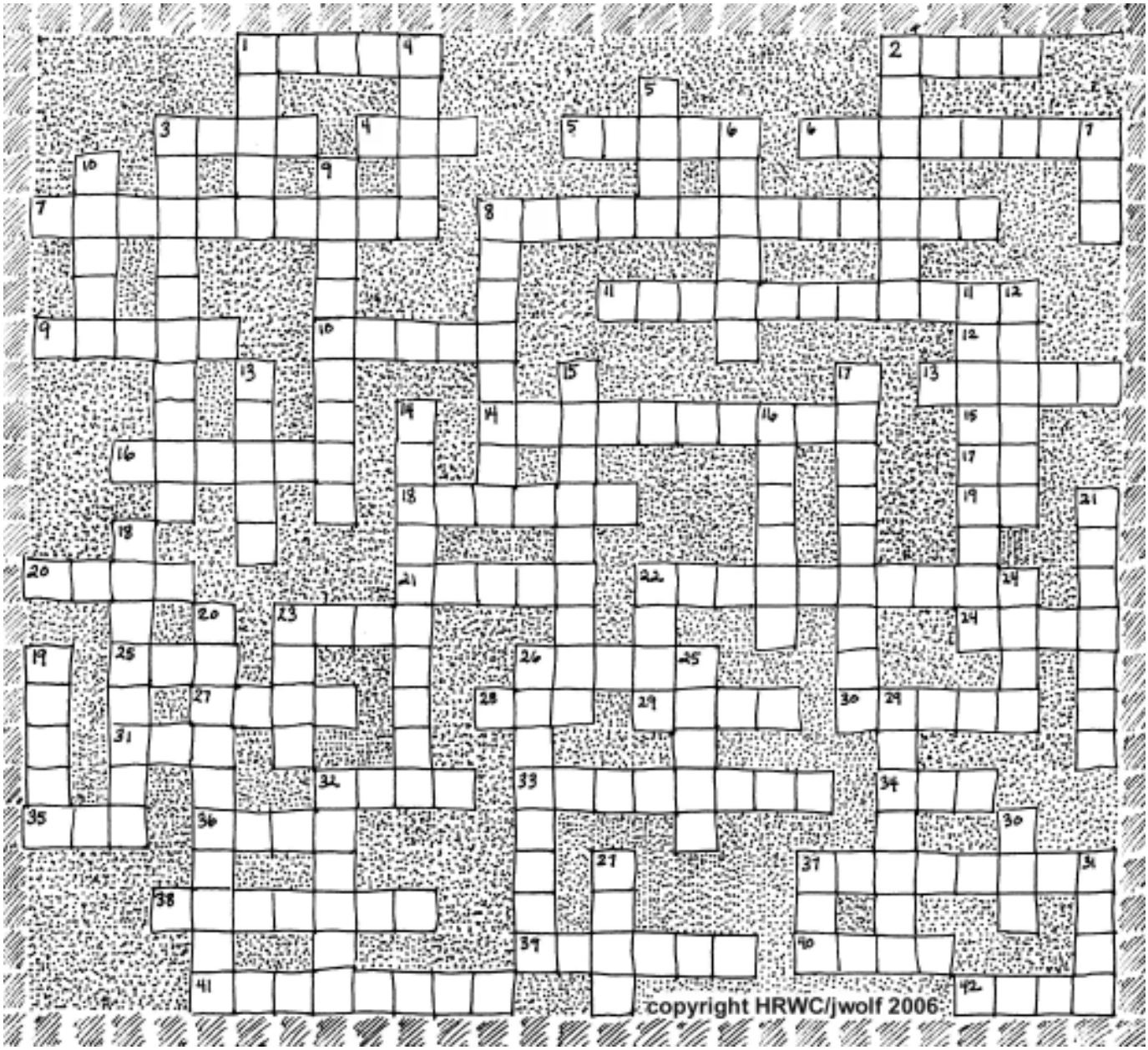
—illustration: Patricia Ferrer Beals

Millers Creek Film Festival

May 5th 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor

Come see a gala screening of films about our connection to the smallest and most dramatic creek in the Huron River system. Look for details at www.hrwc.org/film festival or contact Joan at martin@hrwc.org or (734) 769-5123 x 11.

"Crossing" the Huron



Finish the puzzle? Enter the prize contest! See the detail on page 6...

Join the River RoundUp on April 22

Save the date! Deadline to register is April 11th

"When people gather for the River RoundUp, a wonderful warm enthusiasm fills the room. It is even better when they return, excited to share what they discovered in the creek."

- Joan Martin
HRWC Adopt-A-Stream Program Director

Details at www.hrwc.org or email jmartin@hrwc.org.

Paul Tockstein, Ed McCarter, and John and Tui Minderhout collect aquatic invertebrates on the Huron River at Flat Rock. —photo: Marc Akemann

Know Your Board Representative

John Langs, Charter Township of Superior

John Langs is back. John was a member of HRWC and was on the Executive Committee from 1992-99. He has recently been reappointed by Superior Township as their representative to the Council. He currently serves on the Township Board and on Superior's Wetlands Board. Among other volunteer work, he helps with the United Way, Red Cross, Special Olympics and Rudolph Steiner School.

Since moving to Ann Arbor after graduating from Kalamazoo College in 1993, John's highly varied career has included working as a legal assistant, doing telecommunications work, helping in congressional and senate campaigns, and overseeing media planning and research in markets across the United States. Now he has a construction company which develops and manages various multi-family, highway commercial, retail and industrial developments in Washtenaw County.

John and his family live in a lovely home on an island in the Huron River where the Watershed Council was privileged to hold our "Art on the River" event last year. He says he has always loved nature and the outdoors, and he has passed that love on to his 14 yr-old son who is a volunteer with HRWC. One can understand John's interest in the river and water quality when you read about his hobbies. They include fishing, sailing, water polo, and scuba diving.

If you have comments, suggestions, or questions about HRWC's work or if you would like to become more involved, call John at (734) 487-7007 or call the Watershed Council at (734) 769-5123.

— Eunice Burns

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Preserving the Watershed

HRWC's bioreserve program continues

Through the generous support of the Americana Fund and the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation, HRWC will now be able to continue work on its "bioreserve program." In the next year and a half, HRWC will enhance an existing map of the natural areas in the Huron River Watershed (see "What's Left Out There?," *Huron River Report*, Winter 2004), develop a "rapid ecological assessment" method for on-the-ground field inventories of those areas, and lay the groundwork for developing protection strategies for the highest priority sites.

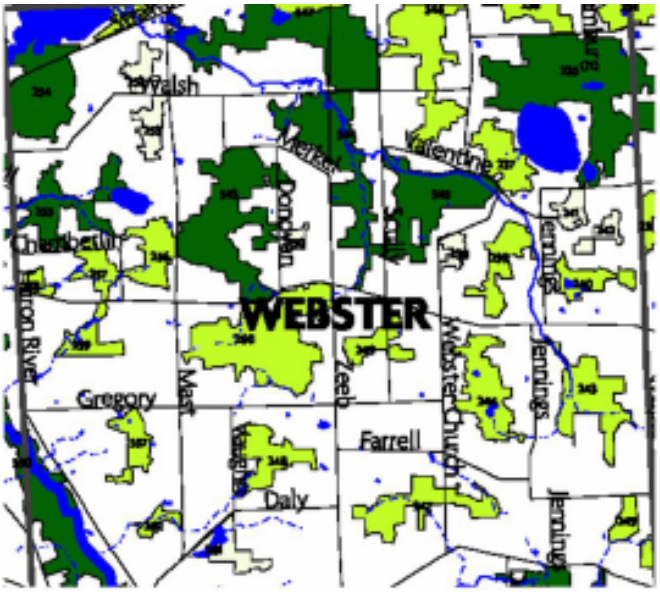
ENHANCING THE NATURAL AREAS MAP

The current map shows the locations of nearly 1,700 natural areas in the watershed, totaling 237,000 acres. These woodlands, wetlands, and other open areas, delineated by staff using digital aerial photographs, harbor a variety of interesting and rare plants and animals (see "Natural Wonders", cover page), as well as provide a wealth of services, such as recreation, filtration of stormwater runoff, and flood control. The map ranks the areas based on seven ecological criteria: size, presence of wetlands, presence of water, groundwater recharge, geological and topographical diversity of the site, and potential presence of rare remnant ecosystems such as lakeplain prairie. The map is available on the web at: *www.hrwc.org/1publications.htm* under "land use programs."

With the new funding, HRWC can expand the initial seven criteria to include criteria such as presence of critical wildlife habitat, level of fragmentation of natural areas, and restoration potential.

FIELD-TESTING NATURAL AREAS

Once the computer modeling is complete, HRWC will create a rapid ecological assessment method. Traditional field assessments of natural areas involve professional naturalists from various disciplines (botany, entomology, herpetology, etc.) performing extensive ecological measurements that can take up to two weeks per site. The time and expense for these inventories will not allow such a thorough investigation of all 1,700 sites over the entire watershed. The rapid assessment method will provide an alternative screening tool for volunteers, land conservancies, and local government conservation programs to further assess the ecological importance of a natural area.



Webster Township has a wealth of natural areas. The darker the shade, the more highly ranked the natural area. —map: HRWC

PROTECTING THE NATURAL AREAS

Once the assessment method is field-tested and ready for use by conservation programs, HRWC will convene a stakeholders meeting to discuss a strategy for employing the rapid assessment in local government conservation programs like the Ann Arbor area's Greenbelt program. The meeting will also examine how state, regional and local natural areas programs like the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the County Parks, and land trusts can use the assessment.

HRWC will also pursue permanent protection strategies for these high quality lands, including: working with land conservancies or landowners for easements or purchase, working with local governments on ordinances that protect natural areas, and encouraging land use planning that guides new growth to already-urban areas, thus leaving natural areas open.

VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

HRWC invites those interested in learning about field ecology and getting outside this summer and fall to help create and test the method and begin inventorying natural areas. If you are interested in learning a new skill, helping preserve natural areas, or just getting outside and enjoying the watershed's woods and wetlands, contact Kris at kolsson@hrwc.org or (734) 769-5123.

— Kris Olsson

This forested wetland at the Huron's headwaters received a high ranking.
—photo: HRWC

Spotlight on a Member: Karen Prochnow

Career in environmental consulting focuses on water quality studies

Karen Prochnow has been an active volunteer and member of HRWC since 2001. She is a life-long Ann Arbor resident who lives in the Allen Creekshed and grew up with a love of the river.

GROWING UP ON THE RIVER

Like most children, Karen loved to swim. As a young child, she went with her mother to the "beach" on the Huron River. Her older sister had been allowed to swim there, but by the late 1960s the beach was covered with broken glass and the water quality had deteriorated. Karen's mother decided that the Huron was no longer a safe place for her children to swim. Karen remembers being very disappointed and has memories of being upset that grown-ups didn't take care of the river.

Karen was always attracted to the Huron and its beauty. As she got older, she and her friends would often go to the river, promising their parents that they would stay out of the water, but somehow they would manage to "accidentally fall in" and return home drenched and muddy.

As a young teenager, she and her friends would take long canoe trips upstream to Delhi Park and back downstream to the Foster Bridge. She has fond memories of her dog escaping from their home, swimming upstream to catch up with them, and being dragged wet and smelly into the canoe to finish the trip. Another canoe trip afforded her an eye-popping learning experience when she and friends stumbled upon the nude beach near Delhi at the old gravel pit.

As she got older, the river continued to play a part in Karen's social life. Like other teens, she enjoyed many uninterrupted parties by the river and midnight summer swims.

A CAREER IN WATER QUALITY

Karen's decision to become a biologist and study water quality at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health was influenced by her love and enjoyment of the Huron and her concern that during her lifetime it had become so degraded that it was no longer considered a safe place for children to play and swim.

After graduation, Karen worked at various environmental consulting firms, specializing in ecological risk assessment and environmental remediation. Her most memorable studies have tended to focus on water quality and remediation measures that allow aquatic systems to recover.

Karen's current job at ECT, an environmental consulting firm, allows her to learn more about regional water quality and how development affects our natural resources. She enjoys having a career that is constantly evolving and allows for lifelong learning.

Karen helps out at Winter Stonefly Day, 2005
—photo: Kathy Marx

INVOLVEMENT IN HRWC

Karen's career took her away from Ann Arbor for a few years. When she moved back in 2001, she wanted to get more involved with the community and meet people with similar interests. HRWC's Adopt-A-Stream program was a natural fit.

She enjoys the Adopt-A-Stream program because it brings together people who like being outdoors and working on a shared goal of monitoring water quality. Karen says, "I always learn something new and meet interesting people."

Karen would like to see more children participate in river monitoring activities because she thinks kids today should have more unstructured playtime outdoors. She believes that adults need to find ways to help kids forge a personal connection with nature so that as kids mature and are in decision making positions they remember that nature matters.

FAVORITE SPOT ON THE HURON

When Karen has some personal time and gets a chance to go canoeing, she enjoys the stretch from Hudson Mills to Delhi. She believes that the Huron is a resource that everyone can share, and having a river in our community allows us to feel connected to the beauty of nature.

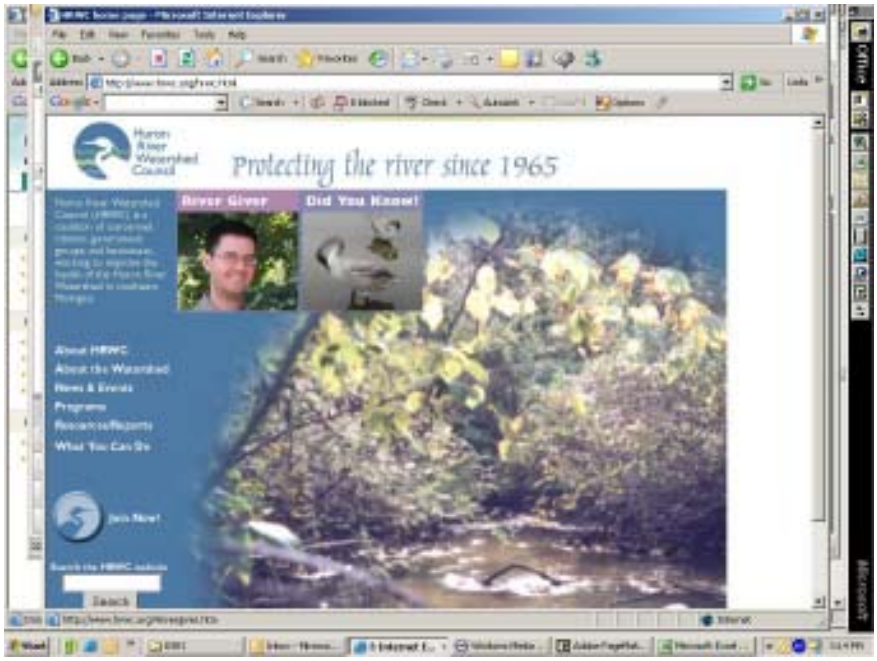
Karen enjoys volunteering with the Adopt-A-Stream Program.
—photo: Kathy Marx

— Ellen Offen

HRWC's New Web Page Design

Getting Ready to Launch a New Look

HRWC is excited to unveil our newly-styled web page this Spring. You'll find new search capabilities, special features, and a more user-friendly site map. Thanks to Cynthia Radcliffe and Mary Christianson for their work "bringing us into" to 21st century!



Techies Needed!

HRWC forming a Technology Committee

Technology means change, and this is true for the HRWC Local Area Network (LAN).

Our five-year old server is working adequately, but the experts tell us that it is coming to the end of its life. In addition we have received a wonderful donation of ArcGIS software that brings our GIS capabilities into the modern age and raises questions about data storage and backup.

In order to plan for the optimum configuration for our system, we are forming a Technology Committee to review our requirements and work with our paid consultant. We are looking for a volunteer who can help us learn about LAN's and RAIDS and all the other stuff we should know. We are also looking for someone with experience in arcGIS who would be willing to advise us from time to time. Call Susan Wooley at (734) 769-5123 x 18 or email swooley@hrwc.org if you would like to help.

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 2006 member dues, mailed to: Huron River Watershed Council
1100 N. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

☐ $5,000 Mink	☐ $500 Blue Heron	☐ $50 Friend
☐ $2,500 Smallmouth Bass	☐ $250 Mayfly	☐ $30 Supporting
☐ $1,000 Green Heron	☐ $100 Steward	☐ $___ Other

Name _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

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Thanks to Our Supporters!

Protecting the Huron 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:

Noemi Barabas, Dave Brooks and **John Lillie** for gathering gear and spending a Sunday giving young students an introduction to river ecology.

Cathy Smillie for her expert help with fundraising.

Maria Silveria for donating a fine laptop computer.

Geoffrey George, Jennifer Hardacker, Robert Fox, John Cooper and **members of the Film & Video Students Association** for donating their excellent teaching at the Video Production Workshop.

ESRI Conservation Support Program for their donation of ArcGIS, a comprehensive suite of software and training to greatly enhance our GIS mapping capabilities.

Nicola's Books for donating the prize for our crossword puzzle (see page 6).

Scott Wade for creating a user-friendly map of the watershed and helping people learn in which subwatershed they live.

The **145 people** who searched 54 sites on the Huron and its streams for winter stoneflies during the Adopt-A-Stream Stonefly Search on January 21.

Marty Baldwin, Beverly Black, Dave and Sharon Brooks, Roberta Carr, Tim Hughes, John and Sue Lillie, Rosalie Meiland, Pat Merkel, Don Rottiers, Esther Rubin, Norma Jean Wade and **Kari Walworth,** who organized, prepared, directed and cleaned up after the Stonefly Search. We cannot do it without you.

Carrie Turner, Erin Trame and friends for searching in a cold rain to find stoneflies at 2 sites of concern after the Stonefly event. They were successful! Mill Creek does have stonefly populations at Fletcher and Klinger Roads.

Dave Wilson for teaching several elementary school classes about the river and water issues with enthusiasm and talent.

Dave Brooks for continuing to be our problem solver and #1 Utility Man, helping us to make everything go smoothly.

Belarc, Inc. for donating the right to use their software to inventory our computer network.