



Huron River Report

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Fall 2007

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Green Oak's Charge ... page 10

Tools for Preserving the Watershed

Map and field assessment to inventory watershed's remaining natural areas

Large amounts of rural areas are being consumed to accommodate new residents and businesses. If these trends continue, the watershed's remaining natural areas will continue to disappear along with wildlife habitat, while at the same time degrading the health of our streams.

What can we do? Communities and conservation organizations do not have the funding, time, or authority to protect all the remaining open lands in the watershed. Thus, we must focus our efforts on those remaining parcels that are the most critical for the watershed.

HRWC has created two tools for assessing natural areas in the past few years: a Bioreserve Map of the remaining natural areas in the watershed, and a Rapid Field Assessment to more finely determine the ecological quality of these natural areas.

THE BIORESERVE MAP

The Bioreserve Map outlines and ranks the existing natural areas in the watershed. We created the map by plotting the boundaries of forests, wetlands, and grasslands using computer mapping software, with recent aerial photos as a guide. We then used a computer model to rank each natural area based on thirteen different measures of ecological value. These measures include: size of the area; presence or absence of wetlands, streams, or lakes; diversity of landscape; potential for groundwater recharge; potential for the site to be connected to other natural areas; and the likely coverage in native vegetation. HRWC recently finished updating the map, which contains over 1,700 sites, totaling about 237,000 acres of natural lands.

RAPID ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL AREAS

In order to obtain more information about these sites and to further identify those of



The prairie fringed orchid grows only in a few remaining natural areas in the Huron River Watershed.

photo: R. O'Connor, MNFI

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Liz Swam the Huron!

Building a legacy of stewardship

On July 21, I completed my journey down the Huron River . . . 100 miles, hundreds of volunteers dedicated to raising awareness, protecting the Huron and keeping me safe, and countless new friends. Today, I continue to marvel at the success of this event and the goals achieved. Together, we:

- Raised awareness of the Huron River through press, community events, and daily interactions with spectators and support volunteers
- Raised membership and donations levels for HRWC, bringing new and renewed commitments for support

of HRWC in a sustained, substantial manner

- Forged new partnerships with volunteers, sponsors and communities
- Observed, from the river's-eye-view, how HRWC's efforts over the past 40 years helped transform the Huron from a degraded to a beloved resource

Every day, I met new people who cared deeply for the river and were



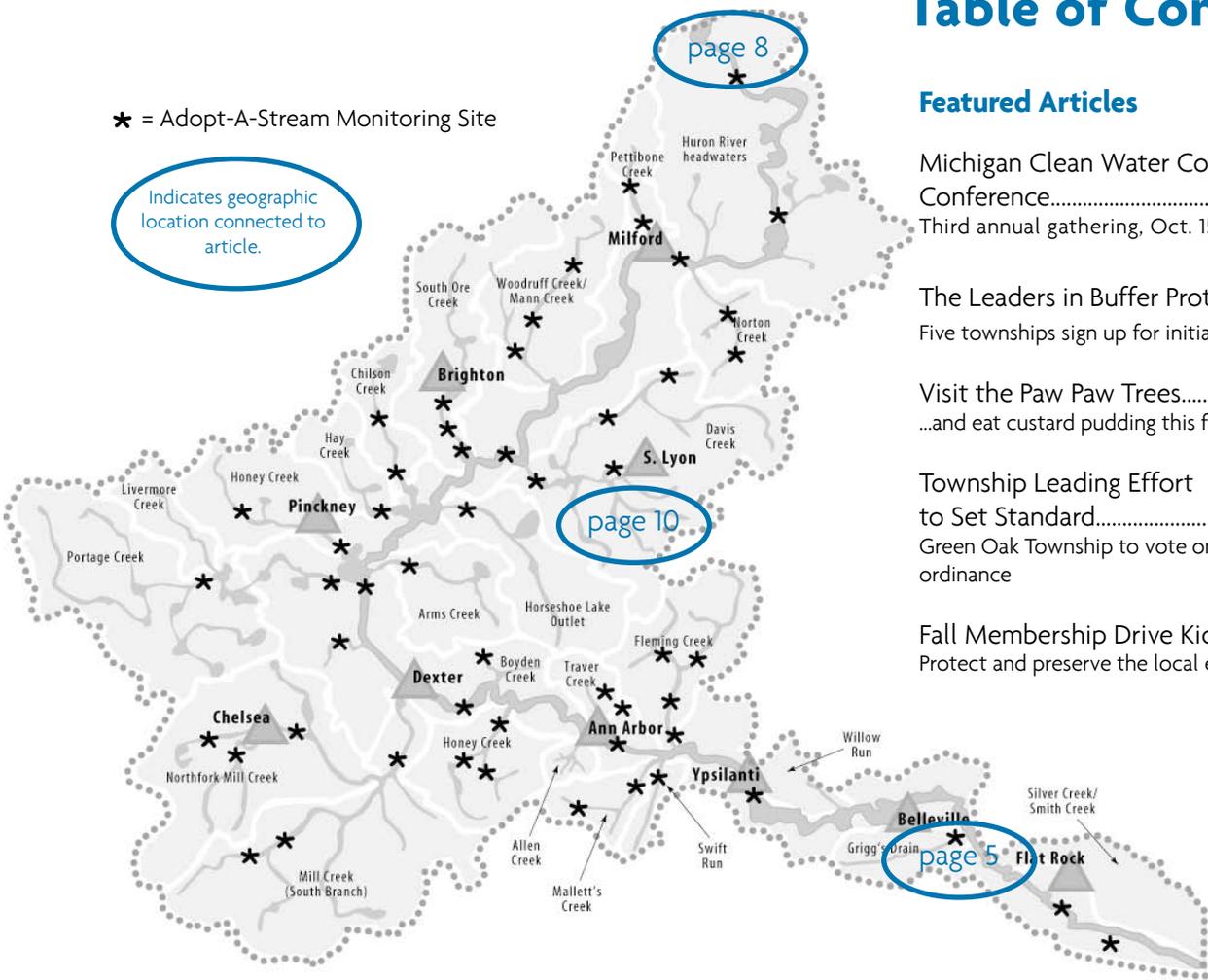
Liz Elling swims alongside her canoe guides on the Huron River near Willow Metropark in Flat Rock during her historic 100-mile swim of the Huron River in July. photo: Monroe Evening News/Kohl Threlkeld

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★ = Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Site

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Protect and preserve the local environment

EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 9, 1 - 4 pm
Rain Barrel Pick-up Day
Huron High School, Ann Arbor
Details on page 9 and at the "Buy a Rain Barrel" page at www.hrwc.org

Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 am - 5 pm
Video Production Workshop
Ann Arbor
Learn the basics of making an engaging movie using your own camera and simple editing tools. Seating is limited!
Cost: \$35.
Email Joan: jmartin@hrwc.org
Deadline: Sept. 26

More events and updates on the web at: www.hrwc.org

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

Sept. 15 - 30
Stream Site Monitoring
Teams will monitor stream sites in place of the River RoundUp this year.
Email Joan: jmartin@hrwc.org by Sept. 10 to learn about teams in your area

Thursday, Oct. 25, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
HRWC Board of Directors Meeting
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Email Laura: lrubin@hrwc.org

Thursday, October 4 from 6 to 9 pm



SUDS
~
on the
river

MICROBREWERIES
of the Huron River Watershed

For tickets call 734-769-5123 ext 19.

Liz Swam the Huron!

continued from cover

motivated to help. I also met people who simply couldn't believe anyone could swim in the Huron River – recall that it was not so long ago that the Huron was not approved for “full body contact” due to compromised water quality. People came to be inspired and, in turn, inspired me. HRWC staff and volunteers helped with press and publicity, fundraising, organizing a dozen events, and incredible logistics – including over 30 paddlers who donated their time and talent to guide me down the Huron. Alone, I could not have done this swim. But together, we helped change perceptions of the Huron and increased awareness for its value and its challenges.

The paddlers and I noticed many positive signs of a healthy Huron River:

- **Abundant wildlife.** The kingfisher is common on the river, making its presence known repeatedly along our route. Other wildlife prospers, too. Each day we saw at least one great blue heron as well as many relatives such as the green heron, the night heron and sandhill crane. The antics of the cedar waxwing always entertained us.
- **Mostly healthy riparian conditions.** HRWC stresses to landowners,

sportspeople, and others that it is important to the health of the river to maintain woody plants, grasses, and other native growth along the river to protect it from the negative impacts of urban runoff. In general, these “buffer” areas are working. Rather than looking like an urban river, the Huron mostly seems like it is “Up North.” As we set off through a heavily urbanized corridor, one paddler cautioned me, “Get ready to see a hidden jewel”. He was right!

- **Advocates supporting the river.** Where there are problems, there are many passionate advocates for improving the condition of the river. Among the notable advocates are those who represent their area of the Huron on the Watershed Council. People like Tim Walsh of South Rockwood, Mark Clancy of Ford Lake, Mary Bajcz of Milford, Jay Bibby of Ypsilanti Township, Dan Swallow of Van Buren Township, and Paul Cousins of Dexter (to name a few!) are making a huge difference in improving the health of the river in their own backyards as well as serving as role models to their neighbors, their workplace colleagues, and fellow environmentalists. I also met many individuals committed to protecting “their stretch” of the Huron River. They use the

resource on an almost daily basis and have an intimate awareness of sections of the Huron. Together, these many good and dedicated people can keep this momentum moving forward, improving the Huron through large and small actions.

Forty years ago, the Huron River was dirty, polluted, and misused. Thanks to the efforts of HRWC and many others, the Huron is “on the mend.” People are reclaiming this river, and my swim helped raise awareness. I am proud of that contribution and grateful to all who helped me on this journey. If you were not able join us on the swim, please consider supporting HRWC now with your donation. Let's keep building the legacy of stewardship for this abundant resource.

— Liz Elling



Laura Rubin, HRWC Executive Director, and Liz take a break to smile for the camera. photo: HRWC



Liz and a fan point out an obvious contradiction. In many sections of the river, HRWC had to secure variances for Liz to swim the river. photo: L. Ziesmer

Too many obstacles meant brief rides in a canoe for Liz, like this respite with Inger and Bill Schultz. photo: HRWC



Tools for Preserving the Watershed

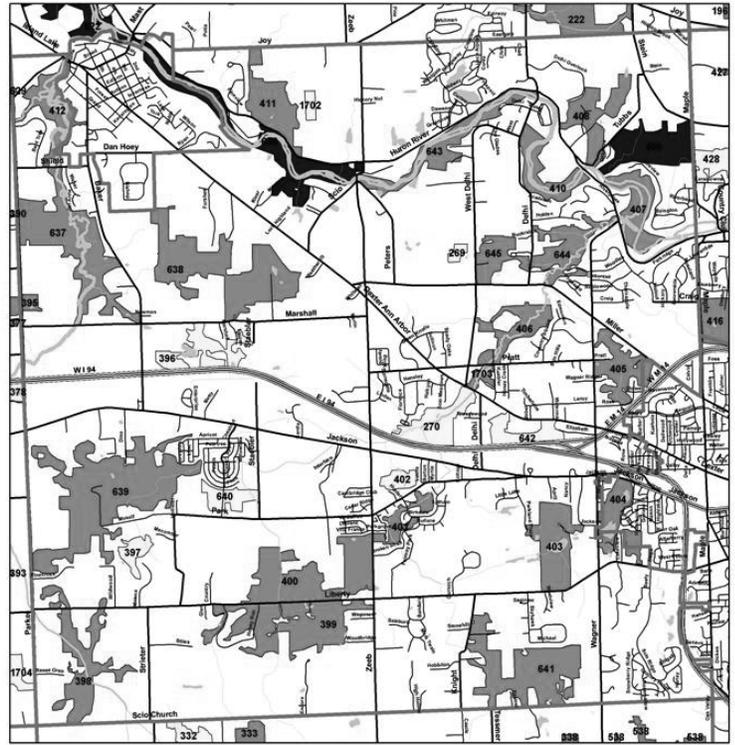
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the highest quality, we developed a rapid ecological assessment method. The first phase of this method is a roadside survey, most of which has been completed, where volunteers visit a site and answer general questions about the potential ecological quality of the site from what they can see from the road. Results from the roadside survey will help us determine which sites to target for a more intensive field assessment.

The second phase is an on-site field assessment of each selected natural area. HRWC adapted the method from assessments performed by professional ecologists at the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). We tailored the MNFI method to make it general enough that volunteers with a half-day of training and a field guidebook can complete it, but detailed enough to glean meaningful information about the ecological quality of the site.

3. Actively pursue strategies to permanently protect high quality natural areas in partnership with conservancies, parks, and local and governments.

HRWC invites individuals, local governments, conservancies, and parks departments that are interested in learning more about the Bioreserve Map and the Rapid Ecological Assessment Method to contact Kris at kolsson@hrwc.org or (734) 769-5123 x16.



The Bioreserve Map for Scio Township. photo: HRWC

NEXT STEPS IN THE BIORESERVE PROJECT

In the next two years, we will:

1. Recruit and lead volunteers in performing field assessments of the natural areas;
2. Collect, analyze, and report on the information gathered; and

VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

— Kris Olsson

Michigan Clean Water Corps Conference

Third annual MiCorps volunteer monitoring gathering, Oct. 15-16

The Third Annual MiCorps Conference will be held October 15-16, 2007 at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources's Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, near Roscommon.

HRWC has been partnering with the Great Lakes Commission to develop the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) volunteer stream and lake monitoring network since its launch in 2004. The mission of MiCorps is to connect and expand volunteer water quality monitoring organizations statewide for the purpose of collecting, sharing and using reliable data; educate and inform the public about water quality issues; and foster water resources stewardship to facilitate

the preservation and protection of Michigan's water resources.

The annual MiCorps conference showcases volunteer monitoring programs across the state, offers a variety of training opportunities, and provides a forum for volunteer monitoring program leaders, citizen volunteers, and water resource professionals to gather together and share ideas. Breakout sessions cover such topics as getting started in volunteer monitoring, recruiting and retaining volunteers, managing and using your data, communicating with local decision makers, fundraising, and designing a monitoring strategy. In addition, representatives from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

will be on hand to review trends in water quality in Michigan's lakes and rivers and discuss the role that volunteer monitoring data plays in supporting water quality protection efforts. This year there is a special emphasis on connecting volunteer monitoring programs and exploration of how programs are using their monitoring data.

Check the MiCorps website at www.micorps.net to learn more about this growing program and for updates on the conference agenda and registration materials.

— Jo Latimore

The Leaders in Buffer Protection

Five townships sign up for initiative

HRWC is excited to announce that five communities have signed on as pilot partners for the Huron River Riparian Buffer Initiative. Congratulations to the townships of Green Oak and Putnam in Livingston County, and to Pittsfield, Scio, and Ypsilanti in Washtenaw County for taking this important step toward protecting riparian buffers, and thus water quality, in their communities.

Riparian buffers, the vegetated transition zones between land and water, are the most vulnerable natural feature in the watershed and also the most ecologically productive (see "Huron 'banks' on new buffer initiative" in Huron River Report, Summer 2006). Riparian buffers act to buffer our freshwater systems from damaging human activities on the land. They

provide critical area for wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, stabilize streambanks, moderate stream temperatures, and protect lakes, streams and rivers from physical and chemical pollutants.

For the next seven months, HRWC staff will assist these pilot communities by increasing protection of riparian buffers and raising awareness among township residents of the value of buffers. First, HRWC's model ordinance for riparian buffers, completed in February, will be tailored to meet each community's situation and adopted by November, 2007. Project staff are working with each pilot community to create a reference map of regulated buffers and conducting field verification of the map information. Second, a coordi-

nated information and education campaign will raise awareness of buffers in the pilot communities. Residents will receive direct mailings, invitations to attend a local open house on buffers and the new ordinance, and exposure to television and print advertising.

HRWC anticipates the accomplishments and experiences of the pilot communities will motivate other communities to join in buffer protection with the goal of watershed-wide participation.

The Huron River Riparian Buffer Initiative is made possible through a Clean Water Act grant from the U.S. EPA and administered by MDEQ.

— Elizabeth Riggs

Visit the Paw Paw Trees

...and eat custard pudding this fall

Last year, Cheryl Saam, who operates the Ann Arbor canoe liveries, excitedly shared news of a great fall outing. A group of her friends, with various ages of children, goes to the lower Huron floodplains in early October to shake the paw paw trees (also known as the Michigan bananatre). The paw paw tree is a tropical tree with southern Michigan being its northern boundary.

Paw paw trees can be found in the few remaining floodplain woods along the lower Huron River. They resemble large sycamore trees. In the fall, when the leaves begin turning yellow you can shake the tree until you hear the thump of a ripe paw paw fruit hitting the ground (they

resemble papayas). Crack it open and scoop out the insides; it tastes somewhat like a banana custard pudding.

An interesting side note — this summer local resident Roger Kuhlman emailed with another bit of news about the paw paw trees: Floodplains in southeast Michigan have suffered tremendous damage due to development. In the not too distant past the beautiful Zebra Swallowtail butterfly was a regular butterfly in this area. Today it is rare in southeast Michigan and may be only a stray vagrant now. This change is due to the fact that its larval host plant, the Paw paw has also become quite rare in our area. Paw-paw loves growing in undisturbed floodplains. A great effort is needed to restore southeast Michigan rivers and streams and their floodplain habitats to good health.

— Laura Rubin



Paw paw fruit.

photo: Wikipedia



Paw paw trees in the lower Huron floodplains.

photo: R. Clinthorne

IN RECOGNITION of everyone who joined HRWC's effort a safe and successful endeavor. THANK YOU for your commitment

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Know Your Board Representative

Chris Benedict, Springfield Township

Chris Benedict, new to the HRWC Board last year, is the representative from Springfield Township. This township is located in northern Oakland County and is the home of the headwaters of four major river systems, including the Huron. Protection of this area with its many sensitive and rare wetlands is a priority for Chris.

Chris grew up on 2 1/2 acres in what was rural northern Troy and watched as the surrounding land developed into subdivisions and strip malls. While he realizes that the Clarkston area of the township, where he now lives, will inevitably have similar development, he hopes that responsible planning and citizen awareness will help minimize the negative environmental impacts.

After working nearly fifteen years at Ford Motor Company, Chris accepted an edu-

cational buyout last summer and is now working on a bachelor's degree in Public Administration. His plans are to continue towards a master's degree with a focus on nonprofit organizations. He works as a real estate agent and serves on the Stewardship Committee of the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving natural areas through conservation easements and property donations.

Chris, his wife, Rebecca, and two daughters, Willow, age 2, and Norah, born in early July, live in the northeast corner of the watershed. He is very proud of Springfield Township's commitment to protecting its natural resources. He is excited about his involvement with HRWC and sees great opportunities for people to get involved, have fun and make a difference.



Chris Benedict, Springfield Township rep
photo: HRWC

— Eunice Burns

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Laura's Stream of Consciousness

New stormwater rates that hold water

Many cities charge rates to their households for estimated amounts of stormwater running off their properties. But a 1995 Michigan Supreme Court decision (Bolt v. the City of Lansing) questioned the legality of this kind of fee. In its decision, the court found "... that the stormwater service charge is a tax, for which approval is required by a vote of the people." Ever since this decision, local governments have been grappling with how to fund stormwater infrastructure improvements and education and develop a rate structure that will hold up against the Bolt decision.

The City of Ann Arbor recently devised a new stormwater rate structure and implemented it this summer. As part of the new rates, residents are offered rate reductions if they keep stormwater on their property. Using infrared aerial photographs, a computer program is able to distinguish hard, impervious surfaces in contrast to areas that can absorb stormwater, such as lawns and gardens. The program assigns the residential property into four billing tiers to more equitably distribute costs proportional to use instead of charging a flat fee. Homes with larger impervious areas pay more. Commercial properties will be billed at the rate of \$279.10 per impervious acre per quarter, plus a \$6.30 customer charge per quarter.

I served on the committee that designed this new rate structure, and the most exciting part of the new system is that customers can take steps to reduce their stormwater bill by implementing best management strategies to keep water on the site and infiltrate it into the ground – that is, by reducing stormwater runoff!

Rain barrels are one way to reuse water and reduce your impact on the stormwater system. These barrels collect the rain water that runs off of your roof and down your downspout, which then can be used for irrigation during dry periods. Residents using rain barrels will have their quarterly rate reduced by \$1.79, or \$7.16 per year. Because of the anticipated demand, HRWC made a bulk purchase of **700 rain barrels** to sell to the public wholesale. This event has been so successful that all 700 barrels are sold. Stay tuned to our

website for information on the next wholesale purchase and mass distribution of rain barrels.

The City of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner are supporting the sale with staff time and promotion. HRWC has created a website to take pre-paid orders for rain barrels, which will be available for pick-up on September 9. All orders must be pre-paid and you must be able to pick-up your order on the delivery date. If there is a great enough interest (and you have missed this opportunity), we will host another sale later. While the focus is on Ann Arbor residents interested in stormwater rate reductions, this sale is open to anyone. To order a rain barrel, visit www.hrwc.org/rainbarrels. More details on these rain barrels can be found at www.rainbarrelusa.com.

We also are working with local stores to educate them about the new rates and anticipated demand for barrels. Local stores will have an opportunity to order barrels with our shipment to sell in their stores. Other credits under the City of Ann Arbor's new rate structure include participating in the Washtenaw County's RiverSafe home program (www.ewashtenaw.org) or creating a rain garden, cistern, or drywell. You can visit the city's webpage at www.a2gov.org/storm to learn more about the rate structure.

I hope that with the example provided by this stormwater rate structure and by others underway, more municipalities will use an equitable system to fund long overdue stormwater infrastructure repairs and improvements as well as basic stormwater runoff education.

— Laura Rubin



HRWC summer intern, Dieter Bouma.
photo: HRWC

Dieter Bouma joined HRWC this past summer as an intern. Dieter worked with HRWC to update the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Watershed Management Plan, conduct Ford and Belleville Lake monitoring, and organize a creek group in Griggs Drain in Van Buren Township. In all this work, Dieter displayed solid focus, determination and innovation, and showed that he shares our commitment to protecting and improving our water resources. We loved having Dieter with us this summer and we hopefully added to his resume with a variety of non-traditional activities from Liz Swims the Huron to rain barrel sales, and hawking raffle tickets!

Dieter is returning to graduate school this fall at the University of Michigan pursuing a joint degree in the schools of Natural Resources and Environment and Public Policy. Thanks, Dieter and good luck.



HRWC staff and City of Ann Arbor Mayor Hieftje hosted Google staff on a canoe trip down the Huron in May. photo: HRWC

Township Leading Effort to Set Standard

Green Oak Township to vote on stormwater ordinance

A new charge is being led in Livingston County to establish some consistency in standards for treating stormwater running off new developments. Local requirements for stormwater management vary despite the efforts of HRWC, the Livingston County Drain Commissioner and other partners in the watershed to encourage consistent requirements. Depending on where in Livingston County a new development project is located, developers may face widely different requirements for how to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater that flows off a site after the development is complete. Most of the standards that do exist focus on water quantity for flood control, while ignoring the effect on the quality of the stormwater runoff.

Green Oak Township Supervisor Mark St. Charles has lived in the watershed all of his life and has witnessed the rapid development of his township over the past few years. As new developments have come in front of the Planning and Township Boards for approval, he has felt constrained by the inability of current zoning and other existing ordinances to protect the quality of one of the township's defining natural features. "As a lifelong resident and avid fisherman," explains St. Charles, "I have watched previously pristine creeks get

clogged with silt and their stream banks erode away." He believes that adopting a stormwater ordinance is the best tool available to reverse the trend.

THE IMPERVIOUS SURFACE CONNECTION

This situation is not new. HRWC has long recognized the impact development has on our streams and the river. Any new development adds impervious surface to the watershed. The rainfall that washes off these areas travels far more rapidly than groundwater and, if not controlled properly, can erode soil that it crosses and carry it into our surface waters. This runoff can also pick up pollutants (non-point source pollution), and the increased velocities in the creeks lead to habitat destruction and streambank erosion. Stormwater runoff from poorly designed development is a leading cause of water quality problems in our watershed.

A number of communities in the watershed have recognized this problem and moved to control runoff through stormwater ordinances. Most plans developed to comply with state stormwater permits, including watershed plans developed for the Upper Huron, Chain of Lakes and Lower Huron, place development of a stormwater ordinance high on the list of

committed activities for local jurisdictions. Several communities have already passed stormwater ordinances. Wayne County developed a stormwater ordinance, complete with a set of development standards that are periodically updated, that local jurisdictions can adopt by resolution.

LEADING THE WAY

Livingston County communities more recently have started to see the effects of rapid development on Huron River tributaries. St. Charles acknowledges that the stormwater ordinance "is probably 15 to 20 years overdue," and he is concerned that his part of the watershed is losing groundwater recharge and degrading runoff quality. In the ordinance that he is proposing to the Green Oak Township Board, stormwater retention and infiltration is encouraged wherever the soils and conditions allow. These design considerations encourage a greater proportion of the runoff to go back into the groundwater and slowly be filtered into surface waters. For example, in some areas, infiltration trenches can be used where curb and gutter would conventionally be employed. The ordinance will rely on development standards set by the Livingston County Drain Commissioner's (LCDC) office to be regularly updated so they can take advantage of technological developments. St. Charles also believes that it is important to adopt regional standards so that there are consistent stormwater protections across the watershed, which would prevent developers from taking advantage of comparatively weaker standards.

St. Charles has worked with the LCDC, HRWC and Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (an engineering consulting firm) to develop a draft ordinance that is now being reviewed by the township's planner and attorney. He hopes to bring the stormwater ordinance, along with a wetlands protection ordinance, to a vote at the Township Board meeting on August 15. HRWC staff commends St. Charles's leadership and encourages HRWC members to contact your local governments and find out if this important tool is being used in your community.

— Ric Lawson



Erosion and sediment run into the Huron River from poor stormwater treatment in Green Oak Township during a recent storm. photo: M. St. Charles

Fall Membership Drive Kicks Off

Recruit one new member to HRWC

We need your help. We are a community-based non-profit working every day to protect 900 square miles (576,000 acres) of watershed, home to one-half million people, numerous threatened and endangered species and habitats, abundant bogs, wet meadows, and prairies of statewide significance.

If you are not already a member, I'd like to invite you to join our efforts and become a member of HRWC. Your donation of \$35, \$50 or \$100 will help strengthen the most effective local environmental group protecting the Huron River and all the lands that drain into it.

Since 1965 we have been at the forefront of efforts to protect the Huron River and the watershed by working closely with local governments throughout the Huron River basin to enact local wetland protection ordinances, storm water management plans, and groundwater protection ordinances.

Our members have helped us come this far and achieve so much. Now we need your help to continue our work. HRWC has to work harder than ever to protect the places we value—places for clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities, as well as the benefits they provide to our quality of life and local economies.

We are announcing our first annual Fall Membership Drive, September 15 through October 15, 2007, and our goal is to recruit 250 new members to help offset frozen state grants, dwindling corporate resources and decreased environmental funding.

We are asking you, one of our many dedicated members, to **recruit one new member** to our mission to protect the Huron River Watershed. **Recycle your newsletter** to someone you know who cares as much as you do, and ask them to act today to help protect the Huron River Watershed.

(I'll replace your newsletter if you like, simply call me at 734-769-5123 ext 19).

You can also encourage people to join HRWC on-line at www.hrwc.org. Simply click on "**Join Now!**"

Our best hope to protect the Huron River Watershed is to have new members join us during the Fall Membership Drive. If you are already a member, I hope you'll seize this unique opportunity and ask one like minded individual, who cares about local environmental issues, to make a commitment to protect the Huron River Watershed.

If you are not a member and receive this newsletter as a courtesy, please show your commitment by becoming a member.

With your help we can continue our important work.

— Margaret M. Smith

YOU Make The Difference

*Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference.*

Our most valuable world resource in the 21st century is not oil, not natural gas, not even some type of renewable energy. It is water—clean, safe, fresh water.

Your membership supports HRWC programs. Send us this membership form with your check made out to "HRWC" or join on-line at www.hrwc.org and click on Join Now! Your contribution is tax-deductible.



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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

MEMBER LEVELS

- \$35 **Mayfly**
- \$50 **Crayfish**
- \$100 **Dragonfly**
- \$250 **Soft Shell**
- \$500 **Salamander**
- \$1,000 **Smallmouth Bass**
- \$2,500 **Great Blue Heron**
- \$5,000 **Mink**

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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:**

Doug Bradley, Tom Chettleburgh and Graham Lewis for downloading our transducers every three weeks.

Dave Wilson for reporting and investigating suspicious discharge in Griggs Drain (Van Buren Township) flowing into the river in July.

Gary Hochgraf and **Christie Zelnik** for measuring flow in Millers Creek.

Marc Akemann, Lee Burton, Edward and Marilyn Couture, Mark Higbee, Graham Lewis, Brigit McGowan, Edie Muel-ler, Renee Mulcrone, Bob Ponte, Mary Spence, Rebecca Turner-Hunt, Dave Wilson and **Christie Zelnik** for posting Film Festival fliers in many communities.

Mary Bajcz for help at Kensington Metropark's "Heron Festival".

Kim Alfonsi, Chris Benedict, Fran Brennan, Patrick Durack, Brian Foley, Gary Hochgraf, Doreen Jessen, David Katz, Susan Lake, Amy Muldoon, Mori Richner, Kay Stremmer, Kara Tecco, Molly Wade, Jane Walters, Debi Weiker and **Dave Wilson** for carefully measuring stream bank profiles in Millers Creek for a study of Bank Erosion Hazard.

Edward & Marilyn Couture, Polina Gouskova, Elsie Orb and **Christie Zelnik** for helping us engage people at Huron River Day.

Lotus Engineering, Inc. for housing our equipment for many years.

Dave Krisko for responding to our equipment needs.

Mike Bergren and **Dave Brooks** for organizing our equipment move to new quarters.

Kathryn Stocking for reviewing the Summer 2007 Huron River Report.

Al Heavner for donating Heavner Canoe kayaks and canoes to the HRWC staff summer outing, and providing transportation from the take-out.

Doug Denison at SmithGroupJJR for donating a gently used, svelte LCD projector to HRWC.