



# Huron River Report

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**Summer 2008**

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Buffer Initiative pg 6  
Woods Creek Friends pg 7

## Get Out and Get Moving this Summer!

Two great ways to explore your watershed

Read on to learn about two family-friendly ways to enjoy the best of the Huron River Watershed this summer.

### LAKELANDS TRAIL STATE PARK

Trying to get out on a trail in the Huron River Watershed? Looking for a new hike or bike route? The Huron River Watershed has one of only four linear parks in Michigan's State Park system. Lakelands Trail State Park is located in southern Livingston County. This linear park stretches from Stockbridge to Pinckney and, as of last year, continues eastward to include Hamburg and Green Oak Townships. Lakelands Trail State Park is approximately 20 miles long with gravel and asphalt surfaces. The trail section from Stockbridge to Pinckney (13 miles) is gravel and the portion in Hamburg (6 miles) is asphalt. Lakelands is designed for hiking, bicycling and wheelchair use on the north side, and horse-back riding on the south side of the trail.

Motorized vehicles and hunting are prohibited. In the winter, the trail provides excellent cross country skiing opportunities.

Lakelands Trail State Park is the result of the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors. The trail passes through wooded areas and rolling farmland and offers spectacular views of spring flowers. Because the railroad corridor was abandoned sometime around 1988, the vegetation has had years to grow, so you'll find lots of trees, birds, creeks, marshes, and wildflowers. Key natural features of the Lakelands Trail include gently rolling forest, open prairie, wetlands and a crossing of the Huron River, part of the designated "country scenic" river under the Michigan Natural Rivers Act of 1970. The area also contains habitat and wildlife that are known to be on the Michigan State Threatened or Endangered Species



*A bike is just one of many ways to enjoy Lakelands Trail State Park.* photo: istock

List, including Blanding's turtles and the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

Also along the route are Stockbridge's historic village square, Zukey Lake Tavern for some good food, plus other eateries and shopping hubs.

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## The Dirt on Soil

A bustling ecosystem beneath your feet!

Think of soil as a thin living skin that covers the earth. Soil is a complex and active ecosystem that includes mineral components, like clay, silt, and sand, as well as organic matter, air, water, and a wide variety of living organisms. Because much of this complexity exists below the surface or at a microscopic scale, it is easy to forget that soil is a living, functioning system that is an integral part of our



*Earthworms are among the thousands of unseen creatures in a healthy soil ecosystem.* photo: William Vann

watershed. Carbon and nutrients cycle through the soil and help to clean both our water and our air. Much of our drinking water is filtered through soil as it moves into ground and surface waters. Disturbed soils can serve as a pipeline for pollutants, eroding silt into surface waters and moving excess nutrients and contaminants into ground and surface waters.

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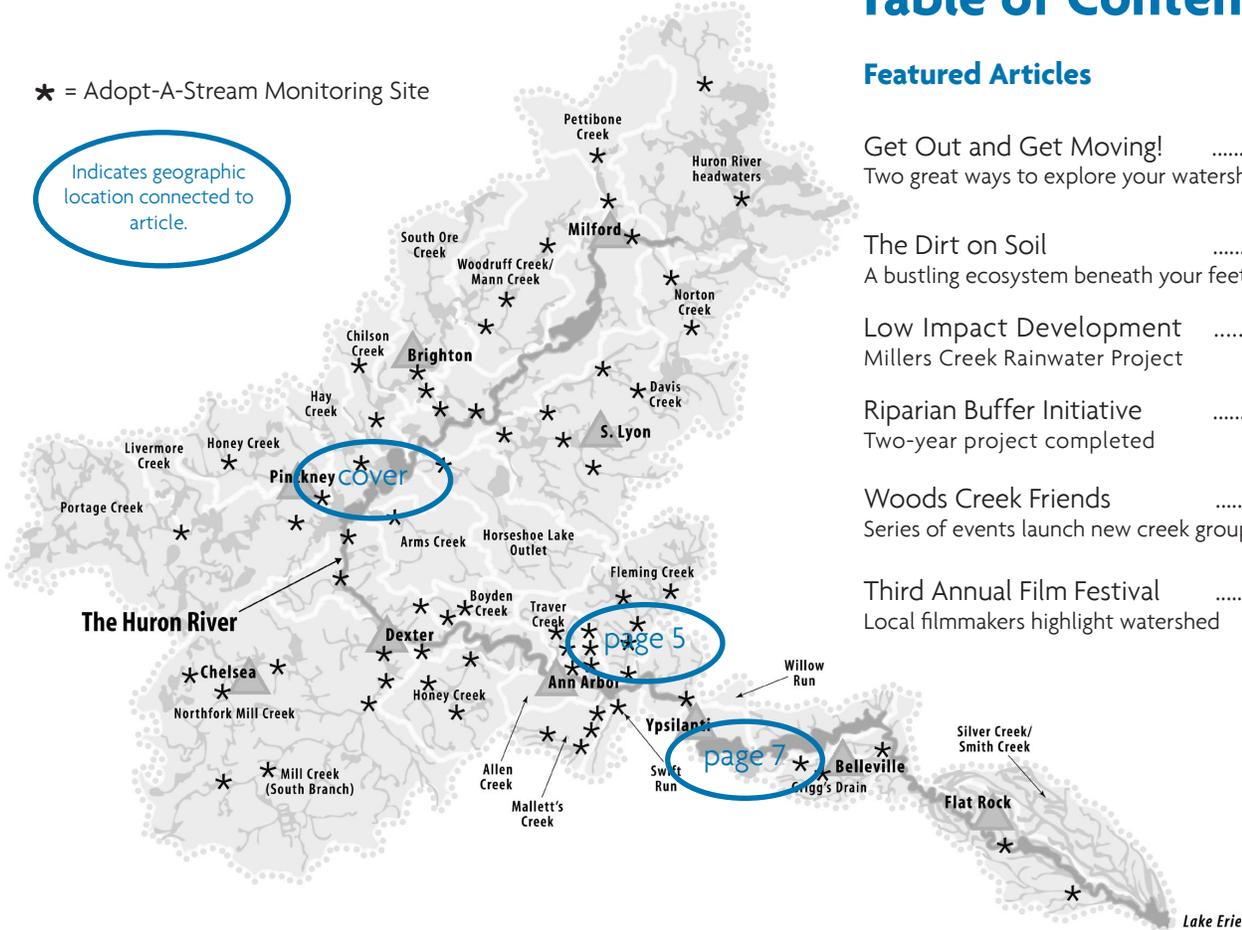
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★ = Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Site

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## Events

May 27 - October 15  
**Huron History Mystery Tour**  
Geocaching in the watershed.  
Go to page 3 to learn more.  
email Margaret: msmith@hrwc.org

Saturday, June 21, 9:00 A.M.  
**Huron River Canoe Challenge**  
Gallup Park, Ann Arbor  
Professional MCRA race, plus free  
Fun Race open to all skill levels.  
email Margaret: msmith@hrwc.org

Sunday, July 13, 9:00 A.M.  
**Swim with Liz Elling**  
UM Sailing Club at Baseline Lake  
Join Liz and Laura Rubin as they  
swim to protect the watershed!  
Registration required.  
email Margaret: msmith@hrwc.org

Sunday, July 27, 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.  
**Adopt-A-Stream Measuring and Mapping Workshop**  
NEW Center  
1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor  
Register by July 22 to attend.  
email Joan: jmartin@hrwc.org

Thursday, September 18, 6:00 P.M.  
**Suds on the River**  
Tickets on sale August 1st  
email Margaret: msmith@hrwc.org

Wednesday, September 24  
**State of the Huron Conference**  
See article on page 9 for details.  
email Laura: lrubin@hrwc.org

More events and updates on the web at: [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org)  
HRWC offices are located at the NEW Center  
1100 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor  
Call (734) 769-5123 or visit the HRWC website for directions

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# Get Out and Get Moving this Summer!

continued from cover

Trailheads are located on M-52 in Stockbridge and a quarter mile north of M-36 on D-19 in Pinckney. In June 2007, Hamburg Township completed their portion of the Lakelands Trail State Park. The township paved the trail and a tunnel under M-36, constructed two trailheads, provided storm water detention, and installed two watering stations for horses. Two parking areas for vehicles allow easy access to the trail. One is the West Bennett Park parking area off of Merrill Road and the other is at the south side of the intersection of M-36 and Pettysville Road.

No state park permit is required to use the trail. For more information, go the Friends of the Lakelands Trail website at <http://lakelandstrailfriends.org>. It sounds like a great way to spend a day. Enjoy.

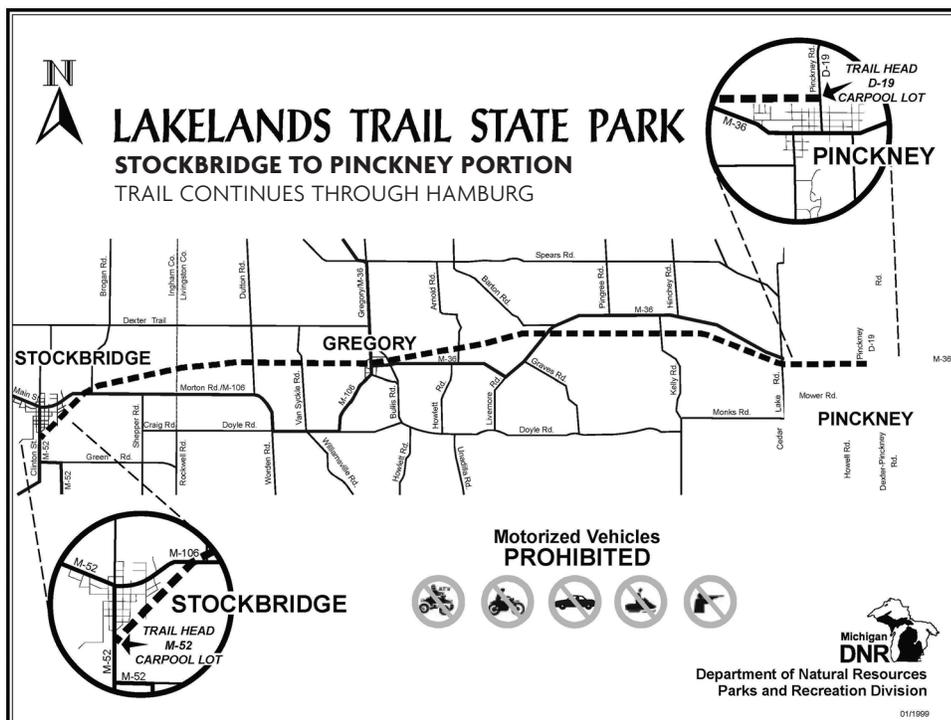
## HURON HISTORY MYSTERY TOUR

Take a tour that centers on the sport of “Geocaching” – an entertaining outdoor adventure game that takes advantage of the features and capabilities of a global positioning system (GPS) unit. It is pronounced “geo-cashing,” as in cashing a check. The word geocaching combines “geo” for geography and “caching” for the act of hiding something.

The basic idea of geocaching is to set up caches outdoors and share their locations on the internet. GPS users then employ the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the player with a wide variety of rewards. It is deceptively easy, because it is one thing to see where an item is and a totally different challenge to actually get there.

A GPS unit is an electronic device that can determine an approximate location within a range of six to twenty feet. Coordinates are given in latitude and longitude. You can use the unit to navigate from a current location to another location. To play the GPS geocaching game, you will need to know how to enter waypoints into your GPS unit.

Indeed, locating a cache can be very entertaining. The location of a cache demonstrates the originator’s skill and possibly



even his or her daring. The skillful placement of a cache in any environment may lead to a challenging find, even with the accuracy of GPS.

The **Huron History Mystery Tour** is a joint effort of HRWC, the Michigan Geocaching Organization (MiGO), and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). Together, they have created a geocache tour of twenty-two caches for the entire watershed, including several canoe-side caches.



*Geocache coins are awarded to the first one hundred participants to successfully complete the course.*

The plan is to start placing caches at the headwaters and continue placing them down through the chain of lakes and the lower reaches of the river all the way to Lake Erie. The History Mystery Tour will launch on May 27, 2008, and continue for the next two years.

The Tour is designed for first-timers and experienced cachers alike. Each cache contains collectable HRWC History Mystery cards, which reveal important facts about the watershed. We hope to have GPS devices available for HRWC members to borrow for the Tour. The first one hundred cachers completing the course will receive a special HRWC/MiGO/HCMA coin.

To learn more about geocaching, and to begin your Huron History Mystery Tour, go to [www.migoonline.org](http://www.migoonline.org). If you would like to have a hands-on introduction to the family friendly sport of geocaching, MiGO also will be at Gallup Park on July 13 for Huron River Day with an information booth and a short geocache adventure for people interested in learning about the sport.

— **Laura Rubin and Margaret Smith**

# The Dirt on Soil

continued from cover

## TEEMING WITH LIFE

Just like other ecosystems on our planet, such as forests or ponds, soils support a broad range of organisms that compete for space and food, perform valuable ecosystem functions, and make up a complex web of life.

Plant material, both above and below ground, is the ultimate source of almost all carbon (and therefore energy) for soil organisms. There may be 1,000 times more soil organisms near plant roots than in soil further away from roots! In just a handful of prairie soil, there can be up to 250 feet of plant roots.

Tiny single-celled organisms called protozoa help accelerate decomposition in soils by grazing on bacteria, fungi, and plant material. Soil amoebas are one common type of protozoan – up to five million can be found in one teaspoon of soil! Only about a quarter of a millimeter in length, they roam the extremely thin film of water coating each soil particle and use tentacles to surround and consume thousands of bacteria each day.

Bacteria are soil's smallest residents – over 1,000 could fit across the head of a pin, and over five billion can be found in one teaspoon of soil. Soil bacteria power the entire soil ecosystem, performing more biochemical functions than any other kind of organism. Most are decomposers, making the energy found in dead organic

matter available for living plants. Others make nitrogen from the air available for plant growth. Some others break down minerals or pollutants and convert them to energy for the soil ecosystem. Bacterial colonies produce a slimy film that helps them adhere to soil particles and helps the particles bind into aggregates that help retain water in the soil.

Many species of fungi thrive in soil – in a square meter of soil, there can be up to 20,000 km of fungal hyphae (threads) – enough to spread from Seattle to Miami five times! Unlike plants, fungi cannot make their own food. Most soil fungi are decomposers that get energy from the organic matter they eat; they are most important in decomposing tough plant compounds. One unique group of soil fungi, the root fungi (or mycorrhizae), make use of a guaranteed food supply by growing into the cells of plant roots. There they consume the sugars produced by the plant and, in turn, help their host plant by bringing in extra water and nutrients and protecting the roots from harmful types of nematodes and fungi.

The most common multi-cellular animals in soil are the nematodes, or round worms. Over 5,000 can be found in a teaspoon of soil. They are a very diverse group, feeding at every level of the soil food chain. Some eat dead organic matter, while others eat plant roots, bacteria, fungus, protozoa, or other nematodes. These tiny worms wiggle

about in the thin film of water between soil particles, much like the amoebas.

Arthropods, like mites, collembolans, and other insects, are mostly decomposers and are a very diverse group. For example, there are thousands of kinds of soil mites that help begin the decomposition process that breaks dead organic material into soil-enriching humus. Armies of mites swarm through leaf litter and the air spaces between soil grains, chewing up and breaking down larger pieces of material, and making smaller bits available for bacteria and fungi. Mites also carry fungi and bacteria with them, helping to distribute those organisms throughout the soil ecosystem.

Familiar earthworms, which are not related to nematodes, consume dead organic matter in the soil. They swallow soil as they burrow, and bacteria in that soil thrive in the earthworm's gut. Earthworms then produce castings back into the soil that contain more bacteria than what they consumed. These rich castings and the aeration that happens when earthworms burrow lead to healthier, nutrient rich soil.

To learn more about soil ecosystems and how to care for them, visit [www.DiscoverySchool.com](http://www.DiscoverySchool.com), or MSU's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems website ([www.safs.msu.edu](http://www.safs.msu.edu)), or [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org) for the "River Friendly Lawn Care" article in the Spring 2008 *Huron River Report*.

— Jo Latimore

## Annual Meeting Features Paul Seelbach, Honors Volunteers



Paul Seelbach

photo: A. Wool

We held our annual meeting on a gorgeous spring day at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Paul Seelbach, Fisheries Research Manager for the MDNR and Co-Chair of the Legislative Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council, talked about water

withdrawal in Michigan and a new process developed for understanding the flow regimes in Michigan rivers.

We announced the recipients of the annual volunteer awards: Lee Burton for the Herb Munzel/Zebra Mussel award; Fred Hanert for the That's Using Your Headwaters award; Liz Elling for the Laminar Flow award; and Graham Lewis for the Vanishing Species award. Congratulations to these individuals who have shown an extraordinary contribution to river protection.



Lee Burton, Liz Elling, and Graham Lewis, three of the four recipients of the 2008 volunteer awards. photo: A. Wool

# Low Impact Development Gets Personal

Coming to a backyard near you through the Millers Creek Rainwater Project

Rain gardens, rain barrels, downspouts, curb cuts, native plants and trees, pervious pavement, green roofs, bioswales — these are the tools of urban stormwater management. Used effectively they can protect water quality by capturing rainwater runoff to increase filtration and reduce flooding and soil erosion. HRWC is working with homeowners in a northeast Ann Arbor neighborhood, comprising the headwaters of Millers Creek, to implement these low impact development methods and measure the results.

## THE MILLERS CREEK CONNECTION

Millers Creek is a special place, a pocket of wilderness winding through an urban landscape. The creek, located entirely within the City of Ann Arbor, is home to a variety of wildlife, including both blue and green herons, turtles and crayfish. Millers Creek also features dramatic topography and is the steepest creek in the entire Huron River system, dropping an average of 50 feet per mile. Although Millers Creek includes beautiful natural areas, long stretches of it are highly degraded.

During storms, flow rates in the creek can increase up to 300-fold, substantially eroding the stream banks. Runoff from the neighborhood in the creek's headwaters area yields the highest concentrations of bacteria, phosphorus and salts measured in Millers Creek.

In the fall of 2005, HRWC secured a \$396,000 US EPA grant along with a \$900,000 match from Pfizer to restore a large section of Millers Creek. The primary goal of the project was to stabilize the creek and reduce the force of its flow on Pfizer property. HRWC has been measuring flow since 2003 and developing plans for construction since spring of 2006. With the loss of Pfizer and its support, the EPA portion of the grant has been re-directed off Pfizer property to the equally critical headwaters area of the creek.

## NEW PROJECT AREA

The new project area is the residential neighborhood north of Plymouth Road from Nixon to Georgetown. It is the water source of the creek's main stem. When this

neighborhood was built, the natural areas where water historically could be stored were replaced with streets, houses and businesses, and the creek was re-directed underground through a series of pipes. These storm drains converge into a single pipe from which the creek first emerges just south of Plymouth Road.

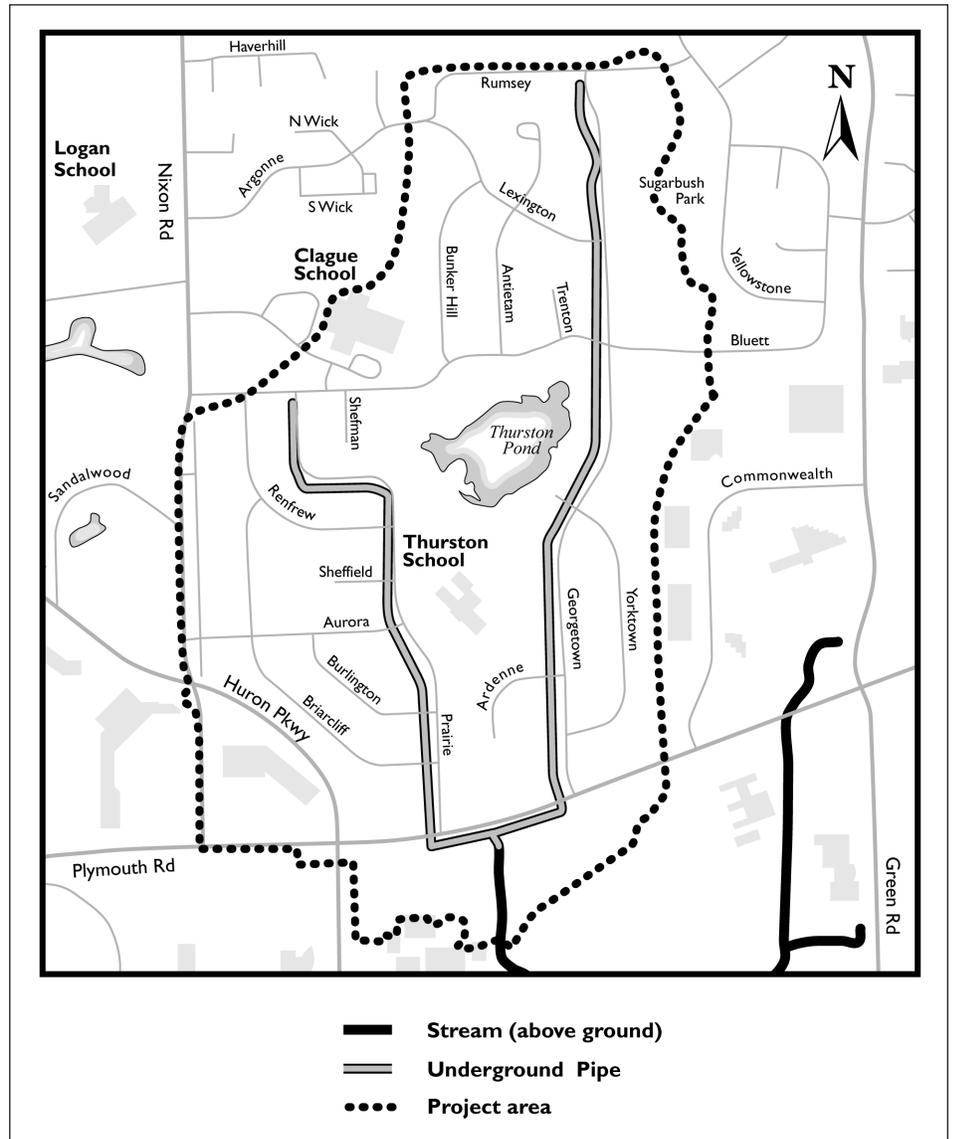
## OUR WORK SO FAR

HRWC held a neighborhood meeting in April to introduce the project and provide information and instruction on the tools of urban stormwater management, such as rain gardens and rain barrels. Neighbors also helped identify low wet places where they can come together as a community

to use native plantings and rain gardens to improve natural rainwater retention and infiltration. Work is underway on a project webpage where community residents can get information and ideas on low impact design methods, discuss challenges and share their progress. HRWC also is developing a "rainwater runoff assessment" tool that homeowners can use to identify best options for capturing rainwater around their homes.

For further information about the project or to get involved go to [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org).

— Pam Labadie



Millers Creek Rainwater Project Area credit: G. Hochgraf and M. Christianson

# Riparian Buffer Initiative Completed

Two-year project makes the case for streamside protection

HRWC successfully wrapped up its two-year Riparian Buffer Initiative this spring. The goal of this project was to coordinate and implement a watershed-wide buffer awareness and ordinance initiative that addresses priority actions in seven watershed management plans. A riparian buffer is the critical transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that provides wildlife habitat, filters pollutants, and stabilizes streambanks. The project has raised the level of awareness and discussion of the importance of riparian buffers and launched an effort to pass buffer ordinances at the local level in Southeast Michigan.

Over the course of the Initiative HRWC accomplished several tasks.

## LOCAL ORDINANCES

HRWC developed a Model Ordinance for Riparian Buffers, with the input of a technical committee and reviewers, and worked with four partner communities interested in adopting it. Of those four communities, Scio and Green Oak Townships

have shown great leadership and will propose a buffer ordinance to their residents soon. HRWC provided assistance to the townships and their planning staff and consultants to tailor the model ordinance to local needs.

## BUFFER AWARENESS

In support of the ordinance process, HRWC hosted open house discussions on good riparian management in the partner communities and produced web-based visual tours of buffers for each community. The community-specific tours can be viewed at [www.hrwc.org/text/buffer.htm#landowners](http://www.hrwc.org/text/buffer.htm#landowners). Project staff produced two different brochures and mailed them to residents in each community, and also published two print ads in local papers to support the direct mailings.

## BUFFER MANAGEMENT

HRWC also enhanced partnerships with large and small riparian land owners through the Initiative. Project staff worked with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), a significant owner of riparian land, to identify buffer restoration and demonstration sites along the Huron River in the Metroparks. HRWC and HCMA now are seeking funding for project implementation. HRWC produced a buffer maintenance tip sheet for HCMA grounds crews, as well. Project staff further provided outreach to small riparian land owners by providing educational assistance and interviewing riparian land owners about the value of buffer protection.

A few spin-offs resulted from the project. SEMCOG is including the Model Ordinance for Riparian Buffers and related educational brochures in the Low Impact Development manual that it is producing for the State of Michigan. Oakland County featured the Buffer Initiative at a riparian planning workshop that is creating a vision for all riparian buffers throughout the county. The Buffer Initiative will be sustained in numerous ways. Perhaps



Cover of Buffer Initiative educational direct mail brochure credit: M. Christianson

most significant will be the new protection afforded riparian buffers in two of the partner communities, Scio and Green Oak Townships. The Model Ordinance and its community-specific variations created by the townships will provide multiple versions of policy language for use by other Michigan communities interested in protecting and restoring riparian areas. The buffer maintenance tips for the grounds crews at the Metroparks will be incorporated into their routine maintenance activities. Other communities and groups pursuing riparian area protections can adapt the brochures and other educational materials created by this project, and HRWC will continue to use them for its buffer education efforts going forward.

*The Huron River Watershed Buffer Initiative was made possible by funding from the U.S. EPA and the MDEQ through the section 319 program of the Clean Water Act.*

— Elizabeth Riggs

## REMINDER:

1. Clean out clutter at home
2. Take extra, old and unwanted books, CDs, and DVDs to HRWC
3. Feel good about clean home and raising funds for HRWC
4. Tell friends and neighbors about Books by Chance

Bring your goods to HRWC between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM weekdays. Books by Chance will sell them over the internet and donate the proceeds to HRWC. Books that sell very well are non-fiction, scholarly, technical, current medical and science, quilting/sewing, engineering, law, political, very current fiction, and textbooks.

# Woods Creek Friends Make a Splash

Series of events launch new creek group

Woods Creek Friends (WCF) formally kick-started their work to protect and restore the Woods Creek tributary in Van Buren Township with a series of spring events. These events included a public renaming ceremony, a workshop to educate local residents about river-friendly lawn care, and a series of monitoring events to document creek conditions. In addition to these events, the group is planning the planting of a new “Grow Zone” in the Lower Huron Metropark, in coordination with Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) staff.



Woods Creek Friends and partners announcing the renaming of Woods Creek from Griggs Drain at a formal press conference. Pictured are Dave Wilson (WCF), Laura Rubin (HRWC), Kurt Heise (Wayne County Department of the Environment), Paul Muelle (HCMA), Cindy King (Van Buren Township), and Robert Ficano (Wayne County Executive). photo: HRWC

## CREEK GETS A NEW NAME

WCF held a press-conference in April to rename the local waterway, described as the “greatest remaining natural feature in Van Buren Township” and formally known as Griggs Drain. The new moniker, Woods Creek, restores the original name, after one of the original

of Environment (DOE). It represents the first effort of WCF to educate residents about creek protection issues. The topic was selected based on preliminary results from monitoring indicating phosphorus levels above state standards throughout the creekshed.

Studies by Wayne County’s Rouge Program Office have found that 60% of the annual phosphorus inputs to the Rouge River occur during

rain events. This means the water coming off lawns, streets, roofs and sidewalks is carrying phosphorus into our waterways. The workshop addressed phosphorus loading by reviewing best management practices for ensuring fertilizers are not washed into the creek during heavy rains. Featured speakers were Matt Best, Environmental Specialist for DOE, and Ric Lawson, Watershed Planner for HRWC.

## GROW ZONES COME TO THE LOWER HURON

Since July 2007, WCF has worked with several governmental and environmental organizations to monitor the quality of aquatic life in and around the stream, as well as potentially harmful substances such as phosphorus, suspended sediments, and salts at several points along the creek. WCF also won a “Grow Zone” grant project planned for this fall in Lower Huron Metropark to demonstrate river-friendly techniques such as buffer plantings to improve the habitat in and around the creek, and reduce stream

bank erosion. WCF will expand its monitoring of the lower section of the creek to increase understanding of flow dynamics and develop a planting plan for the Grow Zone to be implemented in the fall. The grant was one of 11 awarded across the downriver watersheds, which includes the lower Huron River. Three other grants were awarded to lower Huron communities, including sites at Huroc Park, Labo Park, and South Rockwood Village Hall.

## A MODEL CREEK GROUP TO JOIN

WCF is a group of local residents formed last summer with the help of HRWC, Van Buren Township, and Wayne County to monitor and improve the quality of the environment in and around the creek. Their mission statement commits them to “assess, restore, preserve and protect the scenic beauty, wildlife habitat and water quality of the Woods Creek Watershed”. Members meet monthly at their homes to coordinate projects that assess the quality of the creek, and to reinforce the importance of caring for an important natural resource. Interested residents are encouraged to join the WCF in their ongoing activities. For more information, please contact Ric Lawson at [rlawson@hrwc.org](mailto:rlawson@hrwc.org).

— Ric Lawson

Woods Creek contains 27 miles of streams directly south of Belleville Lake, in the northwest reaches of the lower Huron Watershed. It flows from west to east in the south of Van Buren Township, abutting residences particularly along Riggs Road, and ends in Lower Huron Metropark, in the southeast corner of the township, where it flows into the Huron River.

area settlers. The event also introduced the Woods Creek Friends to the community, as well as including new roadside signs designed to enhance local awareness of the creek.

## GROUP PROMOTES RIVER-FRIENDLY LAWN CARE

WCF and invited speakers encouraged lawn maintenance practices that reduce impact on the creek and the Huron River at an April workshop sponsored by WCF in partnership with HRWC, Van Buren Township, and the Wayne County Department

# Third Annual Film Festival a Hit!

Local filmmakers highlight watershed issues and compete for big prizes

A crowd of about 300 people enjoyed eight entertaining, locally-made short films about human connections to the Huron River system at the third annual Millers Creek Film Festival. The festival was organized by HRWC and held in the Michigan Theater on Friday, March 14th. Milford High School graduate Blair Neighbors took the Millie Award for best Public Service Announcement. His “Huron River Recognition” was directed at bringing awareness to the river in a creative, artistic way, grabbing the attention of viewers in thirty seconds. Blair previously won a second prize of \$50 in the 2007 Festival. This year he took home \$1,000 to help him on his filmmaking career.

The 28 students of Room 306 at Northside Elementary School in Ann Arbor received a Millie for the “Seven Stories” of the



The team from Northside Elementary.  
photo: N. Mosher

Huron River in stop-motion animation. The stories were colorful, captivating vignettes showing that our actions have effects on the river and, thus, on all of us. Their prize was \$500.

The Adult category ended in a tie. Two very different films split the \$1,000 prize and each one received a Millie. “Clancy’s

Boat Tour” was an engaging insight by Barbara Lucas into the sources of pollution and the frustration of watching our precious water resources degrade. The film features Mark Clancy, longtime freshwater resource protection advocate and an active member of the Ford Lake Advisory Group.

David Merian of Milford also won with his film, “Drift”, which featured stories of people who have found romance, happiness, contentment and peace along the Huron River. “The river and people, indeed, are as one,” he said in his film.

A souvenir DVD of the winning films is available at cost for \$5 from Joan Martin, (734) 769-5123, x 11 or jmartin@hrwc.org.

— Joan Martin

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# State of the Huron Conference

Save the date! Wednesday, September 24, 2008

This one-day conference will present a picture of the overall health of the watershed, highlight and celebrate successful efforts to protect and restore the Huron, and provide an opportunity to share ideas and strategies for the continued success of watershed initiatives in the future. The conference will start at 8:30 A.M. at Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti.



Water Curtains at the Heiner-Metzger-Platz in Neu-Ulm  
photo: Atelier Dreiseitl GmbH

We are very excited to have as the keynote speaker the world renowned Herbert Dreiseitl, who will share his innovative ideas about managing water in the urban environment.

Mr. Dreiseitl trained as an artist and formed his company Atelier Dreiseitl in 1980 with a goal to promote sustainable projects with a high aesthetic and social value.

The Atelier is a multidisciplinary practice specialized in integrating art, urban hydrology, environmental engineering and



Water Edge photo: Atelier Dreiseitl GmbH

landscape architecture within an urban context. The scope of the practice's work includes integrated sustainable and storm-water design for urban parks, urban plazas, water features, swimming pools, water playgrounds, external and internal water features and housing developments from master planning to construction supervision. Visit his website at [www.dreiseitl.de](http://www.dreiseitl.de).

The conference will offer morning and afternoon concurrent "breakout" sessions that address a variety of topics. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about current knowledge and research projects, successes and failures, and ways to become involved. The conference offers something for everyone – citizens, government officials and policy-makers, activists, professional planners and environmental consultants, scientists, educators, and anyone else who wants to learn more about their watershed and get involved. The conference will provide a forum for sharing ideas and information and building a stronger Huron River watershed community.

Registration for the event will start in July on our website at [www.hrwc.org](http://www.hrwc.org). For more information, contact Laura Rubin at (734) 769-5123 x12 or [lrubin@hrwc.org](mailto:lrubin@hrwc.org).

— Laura Rubin

## Staff Changes

Thank you, Jo! Hello, Paul!



photo: HRWC

Jo Latimore, our Watershed Ecologist, left HRWC in late April. Jo had been with HRWC almost four years and was the staff scientist, overseeing the volunteer monitoring data, river flow and channel shape studies, habitat mapping studies, and other targeted monitoring and studies. Jo also worked on the Michigan Clean Water Corps, training volunteer lake and river monitoring groups statewide. Jo was a tremendous asset to HRWC with her breadth of scientific knowledge and applied science. Jo is now at Michigan State University in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in East Lansing, supporting water resource protection in her new role as Lake, Stream and Watershed Management Outreach Specialist. We congratulate Jo on her new position, and we will miss her.



photo: A. Wooll

Paul Steen has joined HRWC as the new Watershed Ecologist. He joins us fresh from a PhD program at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment focusing on aquatic ecology, with a concentration in stream ecology.

Paul's love for macroinvertebrates drew him to the field and we are happy that he "loves collecting and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates." He has extensive experience working with fish, and he has worked with both the Michigan DNR and the USGS Great Lakes Science Center on data analysis, research, and presentation projects. Welcome, Paul!

— Laura Rubin

# People Making a Difference in the Watershed!

HRWC salutes new and renewing members

## **HRWC WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE RECENTLY JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT TO HRWC.**

Ann Arbor District Library  
Arbor Springs Water Co., Inc.  
Bank of Ann Arbor  
Barr Engineering Co.  
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.  
Chelsea Milling Company  
Domino's Farm Corporation  
Howard Cooper, Inc.  
Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.  
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
JJR, LLC  
Limno-Tech, Inc.  
Manzella Investment  
Midwestern Consulting, Inc.  
NSF International  
Peter Allen and Associates  
REI  
Superior Land Conservancy  
TCF Employee's Fund Committee  
Wade-Trim  
Washtenaw Engineering Co.  
West Liberty Information, LLC.  
Zingerman's Community of Business, Deli Partners, LLC

## **HRWC WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AS NEW MEMBERS AND THANKS THEM FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN WATER!**

Rae Ann Anderson Weymouth  
Kathleen A. Aselyne and Mark Brautigan  
Beth Askew  
Donald Bandkau  
Ronald Bender  
Christopher Benedict  
Harry Benford and Kathryn Enright Benford  
Linda Bennett  
Wendy and Jeff Benya  
M. Ann Blackwood  
Jeff Bower  
Anita Burck  
Richard and Joyce Burdick  
James and Loretta Carbone  
Barbara and Gabe Cherem  
Linda Cinader  
Barbara Coluni  
Charles P. Compton  
Phelps M. Connell and Jean Decker Connell  
Howard and Anne Cooper  
Charles P. Craig and Pamela M. Devereux-Craig  
Merial and Sunil Das  
Garth Davidson  
Kathy and Gerald Davis

Raymond and Noreen De Young  
Andrea DeAgostino and James Leonard Smith  
Dale and Janet Dohler  
Arun and Jennifer D'Souza  
Charles Duncan  
Bruce and Joyce Dwiggin  
Barbara Eberbach  
Polly Edwards  
Douglas Ensor  
Gwendolyn Buckley Evich  
Reynolds and Gail Farley  
Bernard J. and Charlotte M. Fekete  
Sandra M. Finkel  
Patricia Frey and Lawrence Deck  
David Friedman  
Herbert Friedman  
Loretta Friend  
Cindy Frisbie-Gause  
Harriet Gayles  
Wayne Gillis  
James and Marla Gousseff  
Joann and Tom Green  
Josh Green  
Sally L. Greve  
Talbot and Jan Hack  
Terry Heatlie  
Carol and Karl Hellman  
Justin and Michelle Heslinga  
Lynn Hobbs  
Amy Hofing  
Andrew Horning and Catherine McGavran  
Jane and Anthony Hubbarth  
Edith Hurst  
Mark Irish  
Larry Juchartz and Christy Rishoi  
Judith and Charles Judge  
Benita Kaimowitz and Edward Vandenberg  
Yale and Joan Kamisar  
Katrina Klaphake and Jack Bernard  
William Kock  
Paul Kress  
Tom and Heidi Kussurelis  
Margaret B. Lansing  
Pat Lee  
Todd and Nancy Leff  
Rebecca Levenson and Karl Dyke  
Kenneth and Jane Lieberthal  
Lloyd and Joyce Lober  
Lennart H. and Betty Kelsea Lofstrom  
Lois M. and William S. Lovejoy  
Bruce Lowry  
Jon and Sally Lusk  
David A. Merian  
Michael C. Moran  
John P. and Christine Morin  
Doreen Murasky  
Bob and Joan Nassauer  
Gerhard and Margaretha Olving  
Michael and Katherine O'Rear  
Camille Orso and Edward Morin  
Panos Papalambros

Janis Paul  
Bruce Pietrykowski and Suzanne Bergeron  
Thomas E. and Deborah K. Pilutti  
Kristen A. Pitzen and Zachary D. Pollock  
Richard Plewa  
Richard and Lauren Prager  
Terry E. Ragland  
Peter Railton and Rebecca J. Scott  
Andrew T. and Sydney G. Rajkovich  
Ellen D. Rambo  
Frank A. Raymond  
Bonnie Reardon  
Ruth Reynolds  
Heidi Reyst and Angela McCalla  
John and Renee Robbins  
Valerie and Victor Rosenberg  
Lois Rozanski and Margaret Keehl  
Paul and Cheryl Saam  
Joshua Santelli  
George and Mildred Schaub  
Lee Schlesinger and Lisa Klopfer  
Brian and Sara Schneidewind  
John W. Schumacher  
David Scobey and Denise Thal  
Jacqueline R. and Benjamin M. Shapo  
Gary and Martha Slauter  
Thomas Sletcher  
Herbert Sloan  
Gilia Smith and Astrid Giese  
Greg and Pat Stejskal  
Mary Alice Stocking  
David and Paula Strenski  
Marilyn and Guy Sullins  
Catherine Susan  
Marilyn and Mike Taylor  
Suzanne Taylor  
Bryan Tice  
Lewis W. Towler  
Jan Ulrich  
Douglas Vandenberg  
J. Michael Visser  
Peter Vreede  
Deborah Wagner  
Robert and Linda Wallin  
Tim Walsh  
W. Scott Westerman, Jr.  
George and Patricia Williams  
James Woodruff  
William N. and Lenore W. Yaeger  
Steven Yaffee and Julia Wondolleck  
Mark Zaremba  
Jason and Molly Zawacki  
David G. and Linda C. Zurawski

If we have made any errors on this list, please inform Margaret Smith at (734) 769-5123 x 19, or msmith@hrwc.org so that we can correct it. Thank you.

# Laura's "Stream" of Consciousness

An update on HRWC projects and activities

## WATER TRAILS

In several parts of the watershed, people are talking about improving recreational access to the river, adding interpretive, way-finding and historical signage, creating linkages from city to village, and more. These ideas are at the heart of a "Water Trail". Water Trails take on many forms, but in general they are trails in (and on) the water.

A few years ago the Metropolitan Affairs Council (MAC) in Detroit looked at a water trail for the Detroit River and a section of the Huron from Lake Erie up to Flat Rock. After much data collection and public input, MAC developed a map, a vision for a Water Trail for the lowest section of the Huron. At the time there was a great deal of interest even in the upper portions of the river. Unfortunately there was no money for implementation.

Recently, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development and Parks and Recreation departments have started a Blueway Exploratory Project, evaluating

the potential for water trails in Oakland County. We are working with them on a trail segment from Proud Lake through Kensington Metropark.

Building on these efforts and on the enthusiasm of residents, recreationalists and friends made through "Liz Swims the Huron" last summer, HRWC is very interested in starting discussions with all parties interested in developing a **Huron River Water Trail**. This trail would provide increased recreational opportunities, improved access, restroom accommodations and portages, as well as highlighting the trails historical significance and linking community hubs to the river for increased economic opportunities such as food and overnight accommodations.

If you would like to help get this effort off the ground, then please e-mail me with your name and interest at [lrubin@hrwc.org](mailto:lrubin@hrwc.org).

— Laura Rubin

## RAIN BARRELS

Our thanks to all who helped with the sale, and to everyone who purchased and installed a rain barrel.

With 1,200 rainbarrels now in use in our watershed (as a result of our sale events last fall and this spring), each time it rains we are potentially storing 72,000 gallons of water!



Cars line up as volunteers load rain barrels at a recent sale - with one clever purchaser taking their barrel home by bike! photo: D. Dye

# 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](http://www.hrwc.org) and click on Join Now! Your contribution is tax-deductible.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBER LEVELS

- \$30 **Mayfly**
- \$50 **Crayfish**
- \$100 **Dragonfly**
- \$250 **Soft Shell Turtle**
- \$500 **Salamander**
- \$1,000 **Smallmouth Bass**
- \$2,500 **Great Blue Heron**
- \$5,000 **Mink**

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:**

**Bob Elliott** for providing years of service to help HRWC staff be more productive in efforts to protect the river and its resources.

Board member **Chris Benedict, Rudy's Market** in Clarkston, Michigan, and the folks at the **Indian Springs Metropark** for our successful Open House at the headwaters.

**Doris H. Terwilliger**, who volunteered at HRWC for a year, entering data in the donor database. Doris is moving on to City Club and we wish her all the best!

**Pat Frey** for developing a form for summarizing municipal river protection ordinances.

**Paul Cousins, Eunice Burns, Janis Bobrin, Craig Hupy, Elsie Orb** and **Liz Elling** for their ongoing support of HRWC fundraising efforts.

**Marc Akemann** and **Al Wooll** for excellent photos of HRWC events.

**170 April River Round Up volunteers** for successfully organizing gear and paperwork, greeting volunteers, spending five hours finding bugs in streams, helping new people, identifying bugs and cleaning up when the days were done.

**Graphic Artist Lindsey Mishler** for her creative Millers Creek Film Festival marketing materials.

**Michigan Tech Research Institute (MTRI)** for burning and packaging HRWC's Millers Creek Film Festival DVD, **Red Hawk Bar & Grill** for a gift certificate, and **OJ Anderson** (aka "The Fashion Police") for entertaining us in the lobby at the Millers Creek Film Festival.

**Russ Collins** and **the many volunteers** who made the Millers Creek Film Festival a great success, distributing fliers, making films, judging, baking cookies, selling DVDs, and hosting guests in the Michigan Theater lobby.