



Huron River Report

Published quarterly by the Huron River Watershed Council
1100 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Summer 2010

Downriver Report	pg 6
To Hell and Back	pg 7
Matt Bolang, Liv. Co.	pg 8

The River in 1966

A look at the state of the Huron 45 years ago, courtesy of the Ypsilanti Press

In honor of HRWC's 45th anniversary, here is a look at the river back in 1966. A lot has changed on the Huron River over these years. The following excerpt from an article in the Ypsilanti Press, by Steve Cain and Jon Lewis, speaks volumes to the changes and improvements to the river. The two observed the river from Baseline Lake down to Lake Erie. Look for a description of today's much improved river in the next newsletter.

The Huron River, clean and attractive as it flows into Washtenaw County from Baseline Lake, becomes burdened with industrial and farm chemicals, human wastes, algae, silt and other materials as it works its way southeast to Lake Erie. After Belleville Lake, the river is little more than an open sewer.

From Baseline Lake near Pinckney south about 10 miles to Dexter, the river appears closest to its natural state. Few pipes pour

run-off water and sewage into the river, and beer cans, oil drums and old tires are rare. Some algae is suspended in the fast flowing waters, fed by fertilizers washed from farms hidden beyond the stands of trees flanking both sides of the river. The tiny single-celled plants lend only a slight green cast to the water, not hiding the clean rocks on the bottom which is generally free of sediment. Passing under the N. Territorial Road Bridge, the river cuts through the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Hudson Mills Park. Families picnic and children play on swing sets to the background sound of the river splashing over and around rocks.

Not far outside of Dexter, a crane operator was dredging muck from the bottom to build up swamp land for residential use – silt from his work



UM students studying the river in 1957. photo: Bentley Library

continued on page 3

Mapping and Measuring Stream Habitat

A closer look at volunteer monitoring

This article is the first in a new series about our volunteer monitoring studies. Volunteer Dick Chase describes his experience mapping and measuring stream habitat. Once every five years, a team of volunteers maps, evaluates and describes the physical characteristics of each 300' long Adopt-a-Stream stream site. The study evaluates the ecological conditions of the sites, which informs decisions about possible site improvements and the interpretation of our benthic macroinvertebrate ("bottom-dwelling bugs") data collected at River Roundups. Editorial additions (in italics) are from HRWC's Joan Martin.



Volunteers Mike, Jana and Bruce establishing a transect to measure stream habitat characteristics. photo: D. Chase

A VOLUNTEER'S CHRONICLE

At about 1:30 PM on August 21, 2008 our team of volunteers (including Jana Smith, Mike Steele, Bruce Artz and me) set out to map and measure a site on Millers Creek. Millers Creek is noted for its low base flow but very high flows during storms. We were curious to see how those extreme conditions affected the stream bed.

We entered the woods near Huron Parkway and Hubbard Street and

continued on page 5

Table of Contents

Featured Articles

The River in 1966cover
A look at the state of the Huron 45 years ago, courtesy of the Ypsilanti Press

Mapping and Measuring Streamscover
A closer look at volunteer monitoring

Monitoring and Evaluation Data for Lower Huron Released6
Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Report shows mixed results

Summer Fun6
Activities along the Huron River

To Hell and Back7
Portage Creek Management Plan completed

Annual Meeting7
HRWC volunteers recognized

Help HRWC Help the River10
Opportunities abound to volunteer

Millers Creek Film Festival11
Results from the March 19th Festival at the Michigan Theater

Regular Features

Know Your Board Representative.....8
Matt Bolang, Livingston County

Laura's Stream of Consciousness.....9
An update on HRWC projects and activities

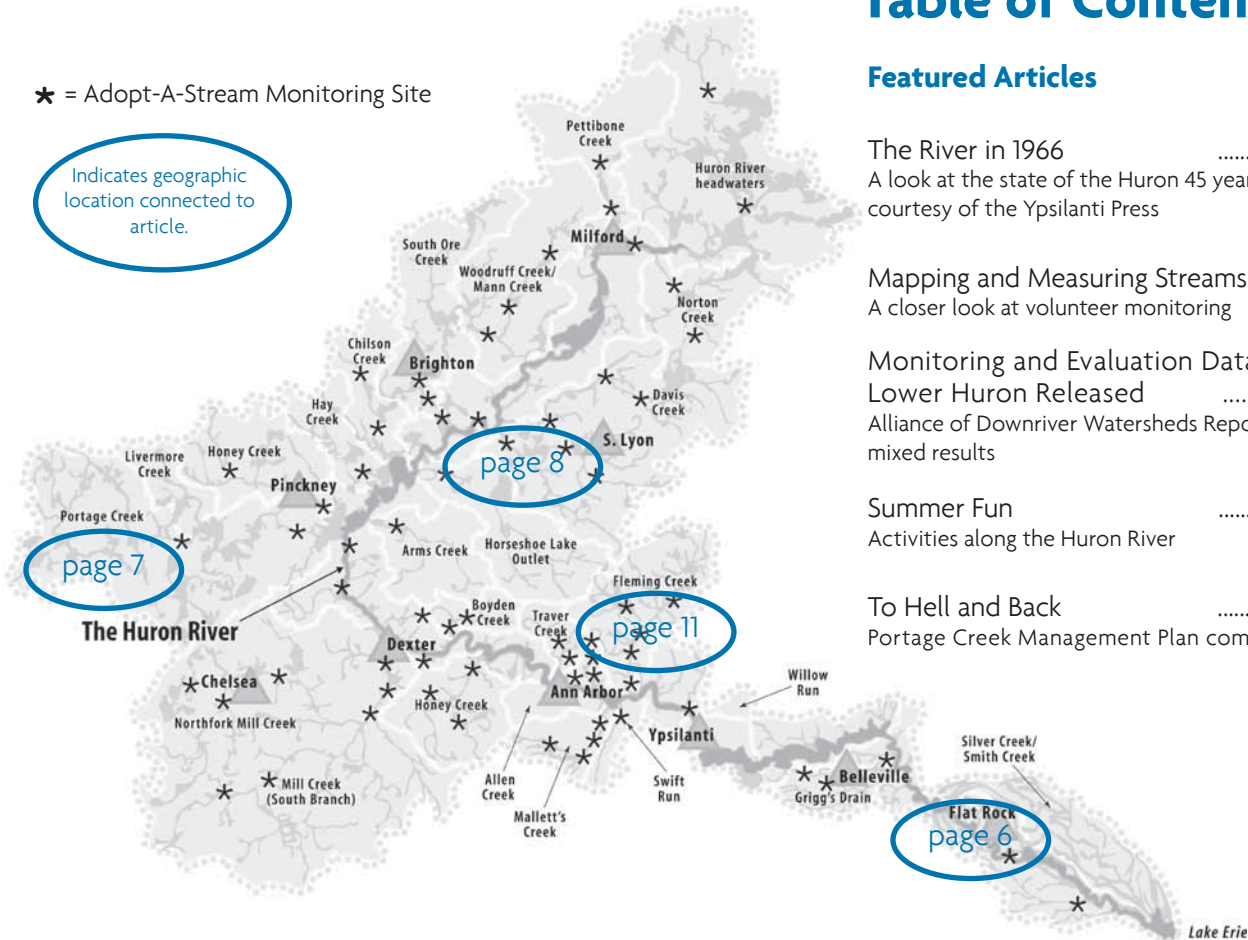
You Make the Difference!11
Become a member of HRWC

Thank You! back cover

The content of this newsletter is prepared by HRWC staff and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of HRWC board members.

★ = Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring Site

Indicates geographic location connected to article.



Events

June 20, 4 — 5 PM,
Extreme Stream Temperature Study Training
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
(study runs during July & August)
Information: www.hrwc.org/volunteer/summer-temperature/

June 24, 5:30 PM
HRWC Executive Committee
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Laura: lrubin@hrwc.org

July 22, 5:30 PM
HRWC Board Meeting
Location TBD
Laura: lrubin@hrwc.org

MORE SUMMER ACTIVITIES ON PAGE 6!

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

July 31, 2 – 5 PM
Measuring & Mapping: Learn to Read the River
NEW Center, Ann Arbor
Joan: jmartin@hrwc.org

June 12, 6 – 9 PM
Ann Arbor Green Fair
Downtown Ann Arbor
Pam: plabadie@hrwc.org

July 11, 12 – 5 PM
Huron River Day
Gallup Park, Ann Arbor
Pam: plabadie@hrwc.org

August 20, 21, 22
Ypsilanti Heritage Festival
GREEN Tent, Riverside Park
Ypsilanti
Pam: plabadie@hrwc.org

The River in 1966

continued from cover

and from occasional raw banks cloud the water – the first signs of spoilage appear. Moving into the village, the old cider mill is no longer dumping its mashing into the water. Dexter, however, gives only primary treatment to its wastes – removing suspended solids and chlorinating the water before piping it into the stream. Food is provided for the thickening algae blooms – evident mainly in the river's eddies. For the first time, detergent suds can be seen floating downstream.

Directly below the village, Dexter-Huron Park graces both sides of the 40-foot wide river. A great blue heron fishes for his meals, disturbed only by a canoe, free to roam as far as Ann Arbor before “civilization” presses too close. Continuing southeast, the current narrows in Delhi, offering the best rapids in the county. On into Barton Pond, the Huron widens into a lake about half-mile across – flanked on one side by homes in wooded lots, the other by a railroad track embankment. Residents of Barton, the highest priced area in the county, use the pond extensively for boating, to a limited extent for swimming.

Then comes Ann Arbor. At the outskirts, several heavy industries cloud the river and deposit trash on the banks. The odor of the river increases steadily as does a grey-green slime found on the shores and rocks. Dozens of culverts, from the size of baseballs to ones large enough to crawl into, empty in excess water from streets, apartment houses and industries. Past the Veterans Administration Hospital, the river again rids itself of much waste as it flows through a bird sanctuary and Ann Arbor's Gallup Park in the area of the Geddes Road Bridge. This part of the river, Geddes Pond, regains much of its attractiveness around Concordia Lutheran College and the US-23 by-pass and looks much like Barton Pond.

Just beyond the Dixboro Road dam, the Ann Arbor Sewage Treatment Plant discharges into the river, contributing a foul smell and murkiness. On an average day last year, the plant processed 10 million gallons – consistently removing 95 percent of wastes in terms of BOD (bio-chemical oxygen demand, a measurement of organic

wastes that deprive water of its oxygen thus killing life in the river). Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti Township and Ypsilanti's sewage treatment facilities all remove more than 90 percent of the BOD and fall within current standards of state and county health departments and the Water Resources Commission. But even with the high level of removal, the volume of sewage processed means that a lot of material is going into the river, creating at least local problems. The current secondary treatment of the three plants still dumps the equivalent of raw, untreated sewage from 16,000 persons into the river.

The river will pick up an additional 4,419 pounds of BOD just from run-off waters as it passes through Washtenaw County. As the river flows through Superior Pond northwest of Ypsilanti, it once again takes on the relative beauty it had in Barton and the end of Geddes, although the water isn't quite as clear or quite as free of surface debris.

The entire aspect of the river changes suddenly at the Pennisular Paper Co. at LeForge Road. Concentrated dyes are dumped into the river, dominating it all the way through the city limits and about 500 yards into Ford Lake before being diluted into invisibility. Depending on the day and the color of the paper being processed at Pennisular, the river may be various shades of red, orange, yellow, brown, green or purple. The west bank, at the foot of the paper company's main building, is a solid outcropping of rubble – like the inside walls of a dump. Thick blackish-blue muck extends out from discharge pipes poking out of the bank. Carp and suckers, so-called “trash fish”, abound in the shallow waters down stream, collecting most frequently around storm drains. Mortar, bricks, broken cement blocks, old washing machines, junk wood and about every other kind of refuse can be found along the east bank down from the Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Paul C. Chapman & Son and the west bank south from Michigan Ave. in particular. Another storm drain empties out of the concrete foundation of the Michigan Ave. Bridge, the smokiness of its water standing out in sharp contrast to the river's dominant color of the day.

GOOD, THEN BAD

Former HRWC staffer Jennifer Wolf remembers playing along the Huron River as a child. “My brother and I spent our summers mucking the shoreline, fishing and swimming. The annual family canoe trip down the Delhi Rapids was always a high point. By the mid-1970s, my parents no longer let us play in the river, due to increasing bacteria levels and pollution. We were too young to understand the reasons why, but it remained a huge disappointment when the river became ‘off limits’ to us.”



Wolf and friend Betsy Kolander at Delhi, circa 1973. photo: B. Evans

TODAY, RESTORED

Today, the Huron is clean enough that Wolf's own daughter can swim and play in local creeks. “It means a great deal to me that my daughter can enjoy the river. It is a testament to the many dedicated individuals, community leaders and municipalities – the results of their hard work and dedication are evident in the Huron's vastly improved water quality.”

Wolf also points out that HRWC was founded in 1965, and the organization's efforts have helped restore the watershed. “HRWC's scientific data has laid the groundwork for improvements to the entire system.”

continued on the next page

The River in 1966

continued from previous page

Sludge deposits on the bottom of the Huron together with the color and the continued trashiness of the banks characterize the river down stream to the Ford Motor Co. plant. Poured concrete topped by cyclone fences hold in the river through the plant property.

The Ypsilanti end of Ford Lake is a long depositing ground for paper fiber from Peninsular and other solid wastes the river picked up in its passage through the city. Essentially undeveloped, the lake front remains attractive. Litter is confined to beer and soft drink bottles and cans and paper – only the type of items someone can carry in. One sandy spit of land with road access is piled with this type of trash although two refuse cans remained only half-full.

Moving beyond Ford Dam, the Huron turns murky with algae collected from the east end of the lake. Thin oil slicks appear in spots. Just beyond Rawsonville Road, a set of football-sized metal pipes suspended 10-yards out into Belleville Lake shoot out water which is both colorless and odorless. The first half of Belleville Lake – up to the city – is similar to Ford but is somewhat more developed and in much greater use for boating.

General Motors' Hydra-matic and Corvair plants and the Fisher Body plant deposit industrial waste into Willow Run Creek which flows into Belleville Lake, but F.B. Frost of the state Water Resources Commission has said that the anti-pollution machinery in these plants is the best that science can now offer and effectively eliminates pollution.

Like a huge bucket of bright green paint, it covers everything it touches. It is in this section of the lake, ringed with houses in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range, that the accumulation of phosphorus, nitrogen and carbon – algae nutrients – take their toll.

Just below the dam, the Huron Valley Steel Co. adds to the already seriously troubled river, dumping in hot water, assorted chemicals and quantities of tiny, hard, floating ash – by-products of its smelting operations. The rotten-egg odor of sulfur is overpowering.

All the way down the Huron from the steel plant to New Boston, the river is unable to shake off the billions of single-celled green organisms and white ash it transports toward Lake Erie. High-water marks on the banks, living and dead trees and other fixed objects can be traced by lines of white.

Navigating down the river, even in a canoe, is a matter of sliding from mound to mound of sediment to a point just north of New Boston where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the mid-1950's dredged a channel cutting across a large meander as a flood-control measure.

The river ends in Lake Erie having provided invaluable services to the communities along its banks – and having paid a stiff price for these services.

It started out as a river and ends as a sewer. Lake Erie is its cesspool.

—**Steve Cain and Jon Lewis**
The Ypsilanti Press, 1966
(compiled by Kris Olsson)



Peninsular Paper Company, circa 1967. photo: Ypsilanti Historical Society

Some algae blooms in Ford Lake but does not cloud the water to the point of seriously diminishing the value the shore property would have for residence. One developer, who called the impoundment "Mediterranean," is hoping to locate a large-scale apartment complex overlooking the water.

The most serious lake problems become evident east of Belleville. The algae level, building up throughout the length, becomes so dense half-way between the city and dam that one can put a paper clip in the water and lose sight of the submerged end.

In the next Huron River Report we will examine the factors that have contributed to the watershed's recovery, and consider what the future looks like for the Huron River.

Mapping and Measuring Stream Habitat

continued from cover

followed a footpath downstream along the creek bank until we found the markers that denoted the start of our site.

Our initial task was to complete ten transects, which are a series of depth and substrate measurements across the creek. Our first two transects were in riffle areas between pools, which had little water depth and faster water. The third transect crossed a pool which was at the location where water often entered from a storm drain that exited out of the hillside above the creek.

Ed. – The transect study produces quantitative data on the stream. Substrate (the materials that make up the stream bed, such as gravel, sand and rocks) size and water depth are recorded for over one hundred locations in the stream. Substrate results correlate highly with habitat quality. A greater variety of substrate provides homes for a greater variety of families of benthic macroinvertebrates that live in the Huron River.

As we went, we noticed quite a bit of animal activity in the pools of the creek. For example, in one pool, we counted five frogs. Dozens of water striders were patrolling the surface. Mike spotted a 5 inch crayfish. Pools farther upstream also had occasional frogs and water striders. Bruce, who did the depth and substrate measurements, observed small fish (2 - 3 inches long) in the pools and in the surge pool below the culvert at Hubbard Street. We observed fresh deer tracks and raccoon tracks in an area of sand bars.

Because the base flow was so low, it was hard to see any water flowing in many places. It seemed that there was more flow at the downstream end of our site than up near the culvert. This might be an indication that ground water was entering the creek as it moved downstream.

There was little offensive odor – something we were asked to record – in the vicinity of the creek, but a distinct odor, similar to that of ocean mudflats, could be noticed after Bruce and Mike stirred up debris as they moved around the pools.



Jana, Mike and Bruce measure off 15 feet to the next transect. photo: D. Chase

Having four people on the team was convenient. Jana worked the left side of the creek and Mike the right. Jana used a fiberglass rod to secure the measuring tape at the active channel edge (the boundary that marks how high the stream frequently flows) for one measurement and at the water's edge for the transect measurements. Mike generally held the tape taut at the right bank while Bruce measured depths and determined substrate size along the transect. I recorded the measurements and took photos.

Jana gathered small trash along the way. We ended with a bag full of such things as pop cans, plastic lids, plastic bags, and a stroller wheel.

After we finished the transects, we all walked back to the downstream end of our section. Jana, Mike, and Bruce then worked their way upstream, making observations to answer habitat evaluation questions, while I took pictures.

Ed. – This study follows protocols similar to the methods used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment in their stream monitoring. Teams learn what to consider in a 3-hour training, and many of the observations they make are subjective. For example, the team judges the level of bank erosion, the extent of vegetation around the stream,

and possible problems happening in the stream. The team discusses their impressions and records a consensus evaluation or a description of their various opinions. Having a four-person team combines a variety of experience of individual volunteers, and reduces subjectivity somewhat.

From our brief experience, we could see why Millers Creek has been termed “flashy”. Although the flows we saw were all very low, it was clear from the badly eroded banks that water levels were sometimes several feet higher than the stream surface we measured. This has had the effect of removing much of the useful habitat in the stream channel over the years.

Ed. – The force of the storm flows are a major reason why we find so few benthic macroinvertebrates in this part of Millers Creek.

— Dick Chase

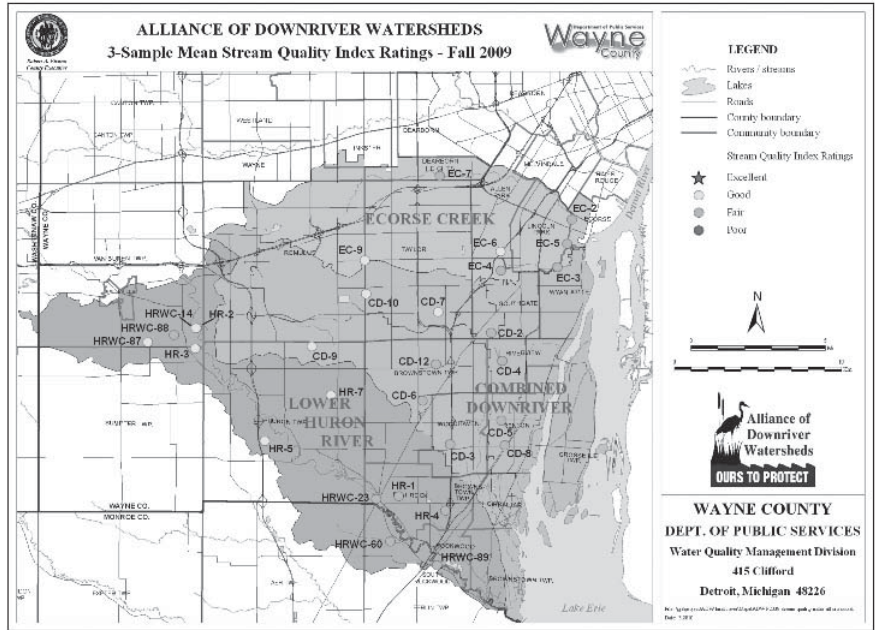
Ed. – The 2010 (free) training for the measuring and mapping program will be held on July 31, 2 – 5 PM. After the training, each team will study a stream site sometime during the month of August. For more information on Measuring and Mapping Stream Habitat, go to www.hrwc.org/volunteer/measure-and-map/ or contact Joan at (734) 769-5123 x 600 or at jmartin@hrwc.org.

Monitoring and Evaluation Data for Lower Huron Released

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds Report shows mixed results

Key findings in a recently released report show improving trends in macroinvertebrates, but significant flow and channel structure problems in developed sections of the lower Huron River and neighboring watersheds. The municipalities and governmental agencies within the lower Huron River watershed, along with their neighbors in bordering watersheds that are members of the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW), released a new comprehensive report detailing monitoring and evaluation results.

The report, the first of its kind on this section of the watershed, details findings over the last three years. It presents results and trends across six different measures including: green infrastructure; stream flow; geomorphology (stream channel shape and composition); infiltration rates; aquatic macroinvertebrates (water insects); and plant surveys. Data for the report was collected across a range of sites in three



3-sample mean of Fall Stream Quality Index ratings for ADW macroinvertebrate sites through 2009. credit: ADW and HRWC

watersheds as part of an evaluation of ten “Grow Zone” projects to establish native vegetation and reduce impacts from stormwater runoff.

The report can be downloaded from the Lower Huron River website at www.lowerhuronriver.net. For more information, contact Ric Lawson at rlawson@hrwc.org.

— Ric Lawson

Connect with nature to be
happy|smart|confident
relaxed|creative|strong

summer events

Birding, women's fly fishing,
swimming, wildcrafting,
river walks, and paddle trips

Huron River Watershed Council
www.hrwc.org

Summer Fun!

Sign up now for a variety of activities along the Huron River

June 12, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Early Morning Birdwalk
with Dea Armstrong

June 12, 1-3 p.m.
Wildcrafting
with Linda Diane Feldt

June 12, 10 a.m.
Paddle Trip-Kent Lake to Placeways
Register in advance.

July 10, 10 a.m.
Paddle Trip-Placeways to Huron Meadows
Register in advance.

July 11, 8:30 a.m.
Baseline Lake Community Swim
Register in advance.

August 14, 10 a.m.
Paddle Trip-Portage to Dexter Huron MetroPark
Register in advance.

August 22, 9:30 a.m.
Walk along a Natural Rivers Section of the Huron
Register in advance.

To register in advance or to obtain additional information for any of these great events, please contact Margaret at (734) 769-5123 x 605 or msmith@hrwc.org.

— Margaret Smith

To Hell and Back

Portage Creek Watershed Plan Completed

This spring, the Portage Creek Watershed Advisory Group and HRWC completed the Watershed Management Plan for Portage Creek – also known as Hell Creek – a major tributary to the Huron River. Portage Creek is easily one of the region’s prettiest and healthiest tributaries due to the extensive natural areas that protect it from human activities. The Plan assesses the current condition of freshwater resources, identifies current and future threats to those resources, sets goals for watershed management, and presents a strategy for implementing recommended management practices.

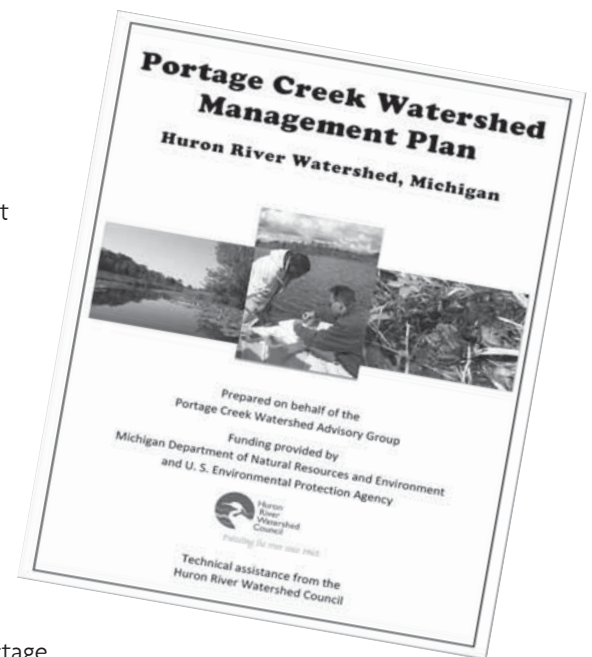
Here are some of the numbers from the past two years of Plan development:

- 6,000 brochures mailed to households
- 80 residents attended 2 public meetings
- 25 people trained on measuring lake and stream quality at 2 workshops
- 15 dedicated volunteers collecting field data
- 8 meetings of the 17-member watershed advisory group
- 3 locations monitored for stream flow baseline conditions

- 1 hydrology report
- 1 wetlands functional assessment
- 1 stream corridor assessment
- 1 Watershed Management Plan with a blueprint for Portage Creek’s future

The Plan, upon expected approval from the MDNRE, will allow local governments, nonprofit organizations, school systems, colleges and universities to apply for state and federal grant funding to implement priority activities. HRWC and the Portage Creek partners that developed the Plan are setting priorities and seeking funding to begin implementing it, coordinating with the Livingston County Watersheds Group on watershed protection.

The Plan recommends 17 management activities toward fulfilling the goals and objectives for Portage Creek. Protecting natural features is a high priority that can be met through programmatic means, especially by enacting the “clean water trifecta” of local ordinances to protect wetlands and riparian buffers, and to



mitigate impacts of stormwater. Current and anticipated impacts from threats to watershed health, notably altered hydrology, excess nutrients, and sediment, are targeted for mitigation by the recommended management activities.

The Plan is available for download at www.hrwc.org/publications/watershed-management-plans.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Riggs at eriggs@hrwc.org.

— Elizabeth Riggs

Annual Meeting

HRWC volunteers recognized

A spring evening at the Dexter District Library and a walk to Mill Creek was the backdrop for HRWC’s Annual Meeting on April 29. Board members John Langs and Craig Hupy grilled hotdogs and served up picnic fare for HRWC supporters in attendance. Staff members presented the year’s accomplishments and answered questions from the audience.

HRWC also honored several volunteers, recognizing their dedication to the Huron River. Volunteer Award recipients are: Rochelle Breitenbach for the Herb Munzel Zebra Mussel Award; John Knott for the That’s Using Your Headwaters Award; Lee Green for the Laminar Flow Award; and Alex Bajcz for the Vanishing Species Award.



Volunteer Award recipients Lee Green, John Knott, Rochelle Breitenbach and Alex Bajcz.
photo: HRWC



Paul Cousins gives a tour of the former Mill Creek Dam site to an enthusiastic crowd.
photo: HRWC

— Pam Labadie

Know Your Board Representative

Matt Bolang, Livingston County

Matt Bolang is one of two Livingston County representatives on the Board of Directors for HRWC. His involvement with the coordination of the county's stormwater program, and various roles related to community water quality and water resource protection, make him an ideal person to serve on the HRWC Board.

Matt earned his Bachelor of Science from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His career with Livingston County began in 1998. During his tenure there he has worked for Michigan State University Extension, Livingston County Department of Public Health, and now jointly with the Livingston County Drain Commissioner's Office. He has been responsible for the management of various water related programs including oversight in groundwater monitoring and mapping, water well construction, wastewater

system installation, natural resources education, recreational waters and, more recently, stormwater permit compliance. Since taking on this role, Matt has become a leader of the Livingston Watershed Advisory Group, and has worked in a variety of ways to ensure its successful growth. "I have worked with Matt for several years now," says Watershed Planner Ric Lawson, "and I know that I can count on him to do what's best for the river."

Matt developed a passion for water quality early in his life, spending his first 16 years living near the St. Croix River in northwest Wisconsin and fishing many of the area's inland lakes. He currently lives in the Hay Creek subwatershed with his wife Chris, two children, Molly and Erik, two dogs, and two cats. Matt and his family find many ways to enjoy the watershed, including hiking, fishing, canoeing, golfing, mountain biking, and camping.



Matt ice fishing, with a little help from his friends. photo: M. Bolang

If you have questions, suggestions or comments for Matt, call him at (517) 552-6870. HRWC also welcomes your call at (734) 769-5123.

— Eunice Burns

HRWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Eunice Burns (Exec. Comm.)
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PLEASE NOTE:
NEW PHONE
EXTENSIONS

Laura's Stream of Consciousness

An update on HRWC projects and activities

HRWC HOSTS SEMINARS ON HOT TOPICS

In December and March, HRWC hosted two seminars on emerging and pressing watershed issues. The December workshop "Huron River Dams, Providing Communities with Tools and Resources for Dam Removal Decisions" attracted over 40 individuals from local, state, and regional government, consultants, and dam owners and operators. The seminar was sponsored by HRWC and URS Corporation. Case studies from the Boardman River, Grand River, and Huron River were presented with time for a lively question and answer period. The workshop wrapped up with a panel of government representatives from MDNRE, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U. S. Fish & Wildlife.

The March workshop addressed stormwater utilities. A stormwater utility is based on the premise that the urban drainage system is a public system, similar to water or wastewater systems. When a demand is placed on these systems, the user is responsible for that service. A stormwater utility, like other utilities, provides a service to the public, supported by charging fees to its customers. User fees provide a consistent, predictable, long-term revenue source for stormwater infrastructure, education, and best management practices.

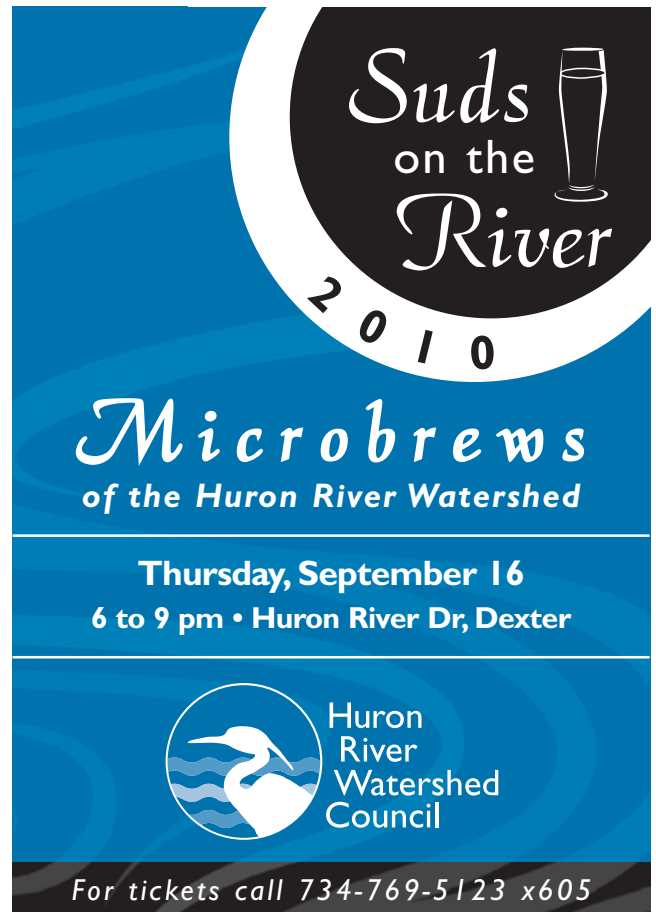
CDM helped sponsor this workshop that drew 35 attendees from local, state, and regional government, non-profit organi-

zations and consulting firms. CDM's John Aldrich provided an overview of stormwater utilities across the country and then examined some of the finer points of their implementation. Molly Wade and Jerry Hancock then presented their case study from Ann Arbor and Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells discussed an innovative regional approach covering the Cleveland area. SEMCOG's Amy Mangus wrapped up the seminar with an update on statewide legislative efforts.

These workshops sparked vibrant and thoughtful discussions on both dam removal and funding for stormwater infrastructure and education, and I hope these discussions continue to flourish and result in progressive steps toward river restoration and protection efforts.

WORKING WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

HRWC is starting a new program with the help of the Toyota Foundation. Over the next three years, we will take our work with volunteer stream monitoring to three high schools in the watershed with the intent to teach students the scientific study of local waterways and help them connect their results to community decisions. Students will evaluate the health of their local streams and



The poster features a circular logo at the top with the text "Suds on the River" and "2010" around a glass of beer. Below the logo, the text "Microbrews of the Huron River Watershed" is written in a stylized font. The event details "Thursday, September 16" and "6 to 9 pm • Huron River Dr, Dexter" are listed. The Huron River Watershed Council logo, featuring a white swan on a blue background, is positioned to the left of the text "Huron River Watershed Council". At the bottom, it says "For tickets call 734-769-5123 x605".

develop skills at presenting their results and concerns to their communities. We hope the students will inspire the community and individual citizens to take better care of their fresh water. This year we will work with students at Belleville, Community (Ann Arbor), and Pinckney High Schools. Watch out for some very educated, informed and persuasive students!

SUDS ON THE RIVER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Each year, this event gets better and better! Be sure to note September 16 on your calendar for an evening of great brews and festivities celebrating the Huron River.

— Laura Rubin



Stormwater Utility Conference attendees. photo: HRWC

Help HRWC Help the River

Opportunities abound to volunteer

BIORESERVE FIELD ASSESSMENT

Calling all Bioreserve Field Volunteers! Join a volunteer team to perform field assessments on the watershed's most important natural areas. Check out our new volunteer web site at www.hrwc.org/volunteer/bioreserve-field-assessments/field-assessment-volunteer-page/.

Interested but haven't attended a training session yet? Get on the Bioreserve mail list - contact Kris: kolsson@hrwc.org; or x 607.

Experienced in Michigan trees, wildflowers, and grasses/sedges? We especially need your help: no training necessary! Every team will need at least one "expert" (someone who has some experience with identifying plants). If you have had a plant identification class, or have become familiar with wildflowers, grasses, and trees over time spent hiking this beautiful watershed, we'd love your help!



Field assessor Mark Gawronski gets muddy at Mud Lake Bog in Northfield Township.

photo: HRWC

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

We need more volunteers to help us collect water samples and measure flow from stream sites. Volunteers in Livingston County are especially needed. For more information go to www.hrwc.org/volunteer/water-sampling/ or contact Ric: rlawson@hrwc.org; or x 609.

MEASURING & MAPPING TO "READ" THE RIVER

Sunday, July 31, 2 – 5 PM
Learn to "read a river" by characterizing the bed, the banks and other indicators of stream health. You must first attend training on the field techniques in a hands-on workshop. Then, people will form into teams to map a designated site at a later date selected by you and the team. *No prior knowledge is necessary.* Also, you choose a date in August with your team for the 4-hour stream study. Register and get more information at www.hrwc.org/volunteer/measure-and-map/ or contact Joan: jmartin@hrwc.org; or x 600.

STREAM TEMPERATURE STUDY

July and August
Study one of the following sites, once a week for two months:

- Boyden Creek: Delhi
- Millers Creek: Hubbard
- Woods Creek: Martinsville Rd
- Hay Creek: M-36
- Mill Creek: Manchester Rd
- Woodruff Creek: Maxfield Rd

This is a nice summer activity for a family or someone who enjoys visiting a stream for a few minutes once a week. We will train you to use a maximum-minimum thermometer on June 20, 2010. Then, you will record the water temperature every week throughout July and August with a substitute volunteer when you are away. Register and get more information at www.hrwc.org/volunteer/summer-temperature/ or contact Joan: jmartin@hrwc.org; or x 600

— HRWC Staff

HRWC Celebrates 45 Years

TELL US YOUR STORIES!

In celebration of HRWC's 45th anniversary, we want to hear your personal stories about the Huron River or your experiences with HRWC.

We will feature your stories in our newsletter and on our website as a way of honoring 45 years of successful collective river protection work.

To submit a story, contact Pam at plabadie@hrwc.org, (734) 769-5123 x 602.

BOOKS
BY CHANCE

REMINDER:

1. Clean out clutter at home
2. Take extra, old and unwanted books, CDs, and DVDs to HRWC
3. Feel good about a cleaner 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.

Millers Creek Film Festival

Results from the March 19th Festival at the Michigan Theater

Stream monitoring by local creek groups, the importance of picking up pet waste, and the Huron River as a source of drinking water – these topics and others were the subjects of 16 entertaining films, including a retrospective of winners from the past, enjoyed by a crowd of 200 people at the fifth annual Millers Creek Film Festival.

WINNERS OF THE 2010 MILLIE AWARDS

- “Huron River” by Blair Neighbors, an independent film student, Public Service Announcement category
- “Our Environment: Through the Eyes of a Child” by Ron Merritt of the Woods Creek Friends, Short Film Adult Filmmaker category
- “Walking Brutus” by the Bright Futures Film Club of Wayne Memorial High School, Short Film School-Age category

Winners received a glass “Millie” trophy and a cash prize of \$500. See the films at www.hrwc.org/millers-creek-film-festival or go to www.youtube.com/millerscreek-filmfest.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS...

Judges **Chris Cook, Jeff Meyers** and **Rebecca Williams**; the **Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals** for funding; **Christianson Design, Limno-Tech, Michigan Tech Research Institute (MTRI), Karim Motawi** and **Brad Tyer** for printing posters, creating logos and graphics, copying DVDs and producing the program; event photographer **Marc Akemann; Paul Cousins** for filling in as co-host; event volunteers **Beverly Black, Dieter Bouma, Rick Carter, Carolyn Texley, Colin Hume, Fran Lyman, Gayle Thomas** and many others who made the gala screening so much fun; **the filmmakers** who submitted entries; the staff of the **Michigan Theater** including **Amanda Bynum** and **Walt Bishop**; all the **fabulous bakers** who brought cookies to share for the post screening reception; filmmaker **Ron Merritt** for generously donating his film fest winnings back to HRWC to support our work; and **Dave Brooks** for printing hundreds of color copies. **The festival could not happen without your generous help!**



Filmmakers gather outside the Michigan Theater for a group photo. photo: M. Akemann

Thanks to everyone who attended the festival this year. We hope you will join us again, and perhaps be inspired to contribute a film next time!

— Pam Labadie

Support Huron River Watershed Council

Ways You Can Help

1. Make a Donation
2. Host an Event
3. Read HRWC.org Blog
4. Volunteer
5. Donate CDs, DVDs & Books

Our strength is in our numbers

The success of our river protection work is guided by science, and relies on the support of individuals like you.

Please contact Margaret Smith if you have a question, (734) 769-5123 x 605 or msmith@hrwc.org.

Donate: Make a Difference

I would like to make a donation to HRWC in the amount of

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Mayfly | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Salamander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Crayfish | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Smallmouth Bass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Dragonfly | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Great Blue Heron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Soft Shell Turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Send this form with your check to HRWC, 1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI, 48104. Or use your credit card to donate on-line at www.hrwc.org.



Huron
River
Watershed
Council

Protecting the river since 1965

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www.hrwc.org

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In this issue...
A 1966 account
of the Huron
River!

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Thanks to Our Volunteers!

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

The **160 people** who spent an April Saturday rounding up the creatures of the river at 58 sites throughout the watershed, and the **10 additional people** who prepared and staffed the event.

Dick Chase for improving our accuracy by scrutinizing our monitoring procedures and equipment, as well as providing pleasant descriptions of our study events.

Rebecca Cheney for her research on Water Trails throughout the country.

Ron Sell and **Barry Lonik**, Huron River paddle experts for their knowledge and expertise putting together and leading the Scenic River paddle trips this summer.

Mary and **Bill Kinley** for graciously opening their home to us again for Suds on the River, Sept. 16, 2010.

Eirik Vitso and **Mike Schultz** for starting the Single Fly Tournament to benefit HRWC, and to **Maggie** at **Jolly Pumpkin** for hosting the pre-party.

Jacqueline Courteau, **Wes Daining**, **Lynn Vaccaro**, and **Ron Gamble** for helping out at our May 1 Bioreserve field assessment training.

Eric Sweeney for his incredible work on automating Bioreserve field assessment report-writing to enable us to finish all 100 reports in the space of a few weeks, and setting up field assessments on natural area properties for the entire Spring portion of this year's field season! Good luck in Chicago!

Jared Collins for his countless volunteer hours working on the donor and volunteer database.

Film Festival Volunteers for making the 5th Annual Millers Creek Film Festival a huge success! (see page 11 for details)

Margaret Weiss for providing a field station for our equipment and **Dave Brooks** for providing a method of protecting the equipment with a handsome storage container.

Lindsey Cousino for her generous donation of graphic designs and **Dave Brooks** for printing and delivering hundreds of color copies for Adopt-A-Stream.

Elsie Orb for her seemingly never-ending editing of multiple web pages.