Tracing HRWC’s Roots

The Huron River Watershed Council at 50

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of HRWC. Over the next year, HRWC will be celebrating this occasion in many ways. The watershed council’s history is important, providing a foundation for understanding how the interests, threats, and strategies have changed, as well as how progress has occurred.

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

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The American Mink

A relentless predator, perfectly suited to a riparian habitat

Sharp-eyed visitors to Mill Creek Park in Dexter could be in for a treat if they carefully watch the far bank of Mill Creek. An unusually bold mink dubbed “Fred” by the Dexter locals lives in the rocks and fishes out minnows from the water. Mink are not endangered or threatened animals, but these fast and shy creatures are rarely seen by casual observers, making Fred a very unusual mink indeed.

The weasel family

The American mink (Neovison vison) are long and thin mammals belonging to the weasel family, and are the only species of mink in North America. It

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to influence decisions made by various local agencies, businesses, and individuals.

**Spurred to action**
The origin of HRWC dates back to 1956 when a drought caused severe water shortages in Southeast Michigan. A controversy between Wayne County and Detroit resulted in a National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) study to survey present and future water resources and demands in the area.

At the same time, new industrial and subdivision development was occurring in Ann Arbor and eastern Washtenaw County. Water and sewer service was in demand and pollution in the river was a growing problem, especially in the narrow reaches below Ann Arbor. The Michigan State Health Department studied the quality of the river and decided to restrict expansion of any sewage treatment plants.

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

Public Act 200 of 1957 provided the basis for local units of government to establish a cooperative information, research, and consultative agency to tackle multi-unit problems.

In April 1958, four counties, eight cities/villages, and 20 townships formed the Huron River Watershed Intergovernmental Committee (HRWIC). The purpose of HRWIC was to study mutual problems relating to water management and use in the Huron River watershed. It sponsored a series of studies that would lead to recommendations for review and action by member governmental units. The studies focused on biological and chemical characteristics of the river; groundwater geology and hydrology, and irrigation needs. Based on these studies, HRWIC hired an engineering firm to analyze waste disposal and water use in downstream portions of the Huron. Two important recommendations were made: 1) the level of treatment by existing sewage treatment plants needed to be increased; and 2) an agency should be established to coordinate development of a pollution control program in the watershed.

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

**A young HRWC**
In 1965, 17 governmental units petitioned the State Water Resources Commission to establish the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC). The petition was granted and, in April, the first watershed council in Michigan.
was formed. The office was moved from a Washtenaw County Building to 415 W. Washington in Ann Arbor and Jerome Fulton, a UM graduate student, was hired as a part-time Executive Secretary. The first year’s budget was $8,500.

Members of the first Council included 24 units of government. The functions of the Council were to:
1) conduct studies; 2) give reports; 3) request the Water Resources Commission to survey the watershed to establish minimum levels of stream flow; 4) recommend establishment of a River Management District when needed; 5) advise agencies of problems and needs of the watershed; 6) cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies; 7) employ an executive secretary and such other personnel as needed and within budget; 8) form sub-committees or advisory committees as needed, and 9) seek special project funds as needed.

Initially, the pressing issues were water and sewer service and the question of developing a regional sewer system, a proposed reservoir on Mill Creek, the development of a flood warning system and better flow monitoring, the need for more water quality monitoring, and the development of state water quality standards. In 1968, a huge flood increased the urgency behind these issues. An extreme storm caused extensive flooding and damaged numerous dams on the river. These issues illustrated a clear need for better water quality data, coordinated planning, and regional action.

Today’s Council
Over the years, those threats, interests and strategies changed, as has HRWC. Today, HRWC’s 12-person staff coordinates a dozen programs and hundreds of volunteers who serve on boards and committees, and in other volunteer activities. The HRWC Board of Directors consists of representatives from 40 units of government, and the budget has grown to $1.25 million. HRWC’s efforts fall into three major categories of Education, Technical Assistance, and Conservation. Programs cover pollution prevention and abatement, hands-on citizen education and river monitoring, natural resource planning, mass media education and information, and wetland and floodplain protection.

The next Huron River Report will discuss the changes over the last 50 years, how HRWC tackled them, and the results.

— Laura Rubin and Eunice Burns
would be easy to confuse a mink with another weasel or aquatic mammal at a quick sighting, perhaps when a fuzzy head pops out of the water and then dives back down or when a long skinny creature disappears into the undergrowth. However, with more time to observe, the differences are quite clear.

Identifying characteristics
Mink are long, with adults ranging from 20–30 inches including the tail. The ermine and least weasel are considerably smaller, with lengths of 12 and 8 inches, respectively. The ermine and least weasel are found in forests and fields as well as near or in water, whereas mink stay exclusively along waterways. River otters are considerably larger than mink, with lengths up to four feet and weights ranging from 20–30 pounds, compared to a mink’s 2–3 pounds. Muskrat can be as long as a mink, but it will be wider and heavier, weighing up to 4 pounds. Beaver are also larger, growing up to 40 inches and weighing between 20–30 pounds. Muskrat and beaver are members of the rodent family and have the distinctive rodent snout and front teeth.

Mink are carnivores, with canine teeth as long as a human pinky fingernail is wide. Mink hunt more effectively with these teeth than with their claws, typically sinking them into the back of their prey’s neck. They eat fish, crustaceans (like crayfish), frogs, and birds, though fish tend to be their preferred food. Impressively, mink can take down muskrats by chasing them underwater and following them right into the muskrats’ burrow.

It’s all about that coat
Mink are probably best known for their gorgeous fur, a trait that has caused problems for the animal in the past. In the late 19th century, fur trapping was a major industry in the United States, and fur trappers made good money with the skins of mammals like the mink and beaver. In fact, the sea mink (Neovison macrodon), which was about twice the size of the American mink and found along the New England coast, was hunted to extinction by 1880. In the 1950s, American mink farming grew ten-fold, greatly increasing the supply of mink coats and lowering the demand on wild mink populations.

Currently, trapping of American minks is permitted in Michigan with a valid hunting license. There are no bag limits on mink (or muskrat or beaver), but the season is restricted to prevent trapping during the animal’s reproductive season.

Invasive in Europe
While the American mink is a beautiful and beloved creature state-side, it poses problems in other parts of the world. Mink introduced to the United Kingdom are generally considered an invasive species, outcompeting the native European mink. The European mink has declined more than 50% over the last three generations and are now critically endangered. The American mink has also spread to South America.

Scan the shoreline
Fred’s regular appearances in Dexter are not the norm, but other mink are indeed out there scurrying along the banks of the streams and rivers of the watershed. Gallup Park, near the canoe livery, Kensington Metro Park, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens are reliable sighting locations for the patient naturalist. Keep a close eye on the banks this spring and summer during your paddling, angling, and walking, and let HRWC know if you see a mink!

— Paul Steen
Upstream, Downstream, and a Swim

An old adage in land-use planning says, “Nice folk don’t live downstream.” In recent decades, with better drainage systems and environmental regulations, that’s no longer true – but one can easily imagine the origin of the saying. “Stuff” (some of it nasty) flows downstream – yes, even in this watershed. How supportive communities along the river were of HRWC in its infancy back in the 1960s depended on their location. It was difficult to convince upstream communities to participate; not so downstream communities that suffered the effects of upstream effluent and runoff from fields and yards.

Downstream, yes!

Upstream, maybe....

Jerome Fulton, one of the first HRWC staffers, who was the executive secretary, garbage collector, jack of all trades – the only staff member from 1966-1969 while he was in graduate school at the University of Michigan – tells how location affected communities’ eagerness to support HRWC, especially financially. “The difficulty,” he says, “was getting upstream governmental units to be interested in HRWC. And the downstream people, who feel the results of low flows and pollution from upstream, well, they were easier to get involved. So I did a lot of talking to governmental units about why they might want to join the Watershed Council.”

Because of efforts like those of Jerome, HRWC began to represent, involve, and benefit all communities along the watershed. Slowly, the Huron River and its tributaries have become cleaner and more free-flowing. Eunice Burns, one of the first HRWC board members and a former member of Ann Arbor City Council, said that in the 1960s, “...when we (HRWC) started, of course, there was no body contact at all with the river. You couldn’t swim.”

Liz swims

By 2007, that had changed dramatically, when Liz Elling, at 61 years of age, swam the entire 110-mile length of the river, from Proud Lake to its mouth at Lake Erie. Jennifer Wolf, HRWC’s marketing specialist at the time, organized the swim. It took two weeks and involved many volunteers who “guarded” Liz by kayaking in front of, beside, and behind her to protect her from physical hazards like rebar, submerged trees, and concrete in the river.

Despite the improved water quality and kayaking escorts, Jennifer still needed CPR-certified people all along the route to guarantee Liz’s safety. Fortunately, half of the kayak paddlers were certified! “I didn’t even have to reschedule anyone. It was like, we’re golden!,” said Jen.

Liz’s reason for the swim: to draw attention to water quality and the health of the Huron River watershed. Liz also raised $47,000 to fund the Bioreserve project and spoke with many groups, sharing her experience and her passion for clean water. After the swim, Liz said, “I hope the swim inspires people to take care of the river and water everywhere in the watershed.”

— Karen Snyder

Shared Stories

HRWC is celebrating 50 years! To help celebrate, Karen Snyder, a volunteer committed to preserving our natural resources, is compiling our oral history, interviewing HRWC “old timers” and “new timers” to capture precious stories that are part of our past.

HRWC will share excerpts from these oral histories over the next year. All transcripts and photos will be turned over to the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan for preservation.
RiverUp! continues to build momentum nearly three years since its advent. Scores of partners and donors are supporting high-impact projects, creating a Huron River renaissance through the unique private-public partnership led by HRWC.

CleanUp! Improve the river’s health
- More than one mile of the river in Ypsilanti is being restored for the benefit of the native fishery, angling, and freshwater education. Plans are to fell streamside trees and anchor them to the stream banks to provide cover and create areas of slower water where fish lack good habitat.

FixUp! Invest in access to river recreation
- Installation of 100 way-finding signs at trailheads and portages is nearly complete along the 104 miles of the Water Trail. Trail users report that they find them very useful.
- Replacement of the floating dock at Peninsula Dam portage in Ypsilanti was a high priority project on the Huron River Water Trail. In October, construction crews installed a prefabricated floating platform and ramp with railings, a mulch path, and new Water Trail signage. The new floating dock spurred the creation of the Friends of Peninsular Park and plans for additional investment.
- The addition in November of a one-of-a-kind canoe and kayak slide on the steep portage route at Barton Dam in Ann Arbor improves the user experience.

BuildUp! Turn our communities to face the river
- Look for Paddler’s Companion 2.0 this spring with improved maps and 12 new pages highlighting the five Trail Towns. Purchase a waterproof map book at www.huronriverwatertrail.org/store.
- Three recently released short films from HRWC and 7 Cylinders Studio showcase this river renaissance: Fly Fishing the Huron; The Making of Mill Creek Park; and the Huron River Water Trail. Visit the You Tube channel to view the films: www.youtube.com/huronriverwc/playlists
- Four-sided stone base kiosks will be the go-to place for Water Trail information in the Trail Towns: Milford, Dexter, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Flat Rock. Completion is scheduled for spring 2015.

A more detailed report of RiverUp!’s goals and accomplishments is available at www.riveruphuron.org.

Staff and trained volunteers removed several tree blockages to make the river navigable for canoes and kayaks at Portage Creek, Mill Creek, and the Huron River near Brighton, using the “Clear and Open Method” because it opens up the river yet leaves important habitat intact for fish and other river organisms.

The installation of two osprey nesting platforms at Barton Pond and Furstenberg Pond in Ann Arbor will enhance habitat and give park users a view of the nesting season without disturbing the birds.

Fish “shocking” is used to conduct population surveys. This crew attracted the attention of curious passers-by. credit: M. Boote

Trail signs help orient recreational users. credit: M. Rowe

Boat slide project funder Jeffrey Post tests out the new feature. credit: HRWC

— Elizabeth Riggs

— Elizabeth Riggs

On-the-water storage will make it easy for river travelers to “park their gear” and enjoy a day or two in the Trail Towns.
Waterfront Wisdom

Tips for shoreline property owners

The watershed boasts 495 lakes (over five acres each), 663 ponds, 126 river miles and approximately 1,200 miles of streams. Property owners along these waterways have a unique opportunity and incentive to help improve the health of the watershed while maintaining a beautiful shoreline and keeping their adjacent waterbody clean for swimming, fishing and boating. Similar to managing stormdrains in urban areas, the goal is to prevent polluted surface runoff and shallow subsurface water from entering the waterway.

**Smart shorelines**

With the release of its new booklet “Waterfront Wisdom,” HRWC offers water protection tips and resources specifically for shoreline property owners on how to:

- Capture and infiltrate runoff pollution by installing a rain garden or shoreline plant buffer
- Keep geese away using native plants
- Prevent shoreline erosion using ecological controls and native vegetation instead of seawalls
- Reduce algal blooms by using phosphorus-free fertilizer or avoiding fertilizer altogether

Download the 12-page booklet or check out the series of detailed “tips” pages at hrwc.org/take-action/waterfront-wise. Printed copies are available upon request. Contact Pam Labadie at plabadie@hrwc.org.

**Riparian buffers**

A riparian buffer is a vegetated area (a “buffer strip”), usually forested, on the banks of a waterbody, which helps shade and partially protect it from the impact of adjacent land uses. Buffers play a key role in improving water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes. They act to intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other materials in surface runoff and reduce nutrients and other pollutants in shallow subsurface water flow. They also provide wildlife habitat, reduce erosion by stabilizing stream banks, and keep water temperature cool in the summer.

The most effective riparian buffers are 100 feet wide from the edge of the waterbody (75 feet of trees, shrubs, taller grasses and wildflowers plus 25 feet of residential upland). However, even a 10-foot riparian buffer provides some benefit to the adjacent waterway. One type of buffer, known as a “Natural Shoreline,” provides erosion-control with natural materials, native vegetation and sometimes rocks at the water’s edge as an alternative to structures like seawalls. Some Huron River communities like Scio and Green Oak Townships have enacted ordinances to protect existing riparian buffers.

**Invasive species**

Most plants and animals found in inland lakes are natural parts of a diverse and healthy ecosystem. Unfortunately, some species threaten lake health by becoming overly abundant, crowding other species, and impacting the ecosystem in unpredictable ways.

Because invasive species pose threats to inland lakes, it is important to know how to identify them, to prevent their introduction into lakes where they are not currently found and to understand available management options if they are present.

**Monitoring**

Learn to monitor indicators of water quality in lakes or streams and document changes. Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is a network of volunteer monitoring programs created to assist the Department of Environmental Quality in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection.

MiCorps has both a Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program and a Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Open to lake communities and individuals, MiCorps offers an annual conference, comprehensive trainings, workshops, and webinars, hosts an online data exchange, and provides funding for start-up monitoring programs. Learn more at www.micorps.net.

**Upcoming conferences**

MARCH: Shoreline and Shallows Conference
www.mishorelinepartnership.org

MAY: Annual Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Conference
www.mymlsa.org

OCTOBER: Michigan Aquatic Restoration Conference
www.michiganstreams.org

— Pam Labadie
Founded in 1965, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) is southeast Michigan’s oldest environmental organization dedicated to river protection. HRWC works to inspire attitudes, behaviors, and economies to protect, rehabilitate, and sustain the Huron River system.

HRWC coordinates programs and volunteer efforts that include pollution prevention, hands-on river monitoring, wetland and floodplain protection, public outreach and education, and natural resources planning.

Individuals, local businesses and more than 40 communities support HRWC’s work through voluntary membership.

The Huron River Report is published quarterly. Its content is prepared by HRWC staff and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of board members.

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Front row: Jennifer, Rebecca Esselman, Kris, and Jason. Middle row: Rebecca Foster, Margaret, Ric and Laura. Back Row: Paul, Pam and Elizabeth.

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Program Updates

HRWC’s activities on various programs in 2014

Portage Creek implementation
In 2014, the Portage Creek project focused efforts on educating shoreline property owners and working with three communities to strengthen policies that protect and enhance water quality.

HRWC produced and distributed “Waterfront Wisdom” to shoreline homeowners, created a series of tips web pages at hrwc.org and ran public service advertisements in The Sun Times on best practices for creating and maintaining a beautiful and healthy waterfront. Vegetated buffers along creeks, wetlands, and lakes are one of the most effective ways to maintain water quality as development occurs because native trees, shrubs, and deep-rooted plants soak up polluted runoff coming from roads, rooftops, and lawns.

Lyndon, Dexter, and Unadilla townships are considering provisions that will require new building to be set back from Portage Creek and its lakes and that protect riparian buffers. Details are at the project web page, hrwc.org/portagecreek. The Portage Creek project is funded by a grant from the Michigan DEQ.

Norton Creek watershed management planning
At the end of 2014, HRWC received grant funding from the Michigan DEQ’s “Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater” (SAW) Program to develop a watershed management plan for Norton Creek in Oakland County. In order to develop this plan, HRWC will work with local stakeholders to:

• identify the extent of water quality problems (low dissolved oxygen, high phosphorus and high total dissolved solids are currently known);
• sample waters to establish existing conditions;
• perform field and stakeholder surveys to gather additional information; and
• conduct research to identify potential solutions that have been successful elsewhere.

HRWC met with stakeholders in late winter to start gathering information and build relationships. Following information gathering, HRWC will conduct loading analysis and critical area identification for each problem and draft a prescription of actions to reduce problem sources. HRWC will work with partners and stakeholders to finalize the management strategy and complete the watershed management plan to be implemented locally.

Stormwater
Thanks to direct funding from local governments, HRWC continues to assist local municipalities by helping them identify and remedy stormwater pollution issues and comply with federal stormwater regulations. HRWC regularly meets with groups of municipalities from Livingston, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties to discuss new and ongoing projects and issues, help solve problems, and develop new initiatives.

HRWC and partners in Wayne County also work with two neighboring watersheds in the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds. HRWC developed a wide range of educational materials for stormwater partners including the watershed community calendar, pet waste campaign, H2O Heroes campaign, and a broadly distributed advertisement campaign. HRWC writes articles for local government newsletters and participates in local community events to help educate the public on stormwater issues.

Finally, HRWC monitors stream flow rates and chemistry to gage progress and develops grant projects like the Swift Run Green Infrastructure project to tackle specific problem areas.

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SEMIWILD
With funding from the Carls Foundation, HRWC has embarked on a new project with the following conservancies in the watershed: Legacy, Livingston, Six Rivers Regional, Southeast Michigan, and North Oakland Headwaters land conservancies, and the Michigan Nature Association. A new partnership of these conservancies as well as others in Southeast Michigan, SEMIWILD (www.semiwild.org), has chosen to focus on conserving natural lands in the watershed for its first campaign.

HRWC and SEMIWILD will be contacting natural area landowners throughout the watershed this winter and spring to offer them a free HRWC Bioreserve field assessment of their natural areas and access to workshops and information about options for land conservation for their properties.

Adopt-a-Stream program
HRWC’s two-decade-long benthic macroinvertebrate study, including River Roundups, Stonefly Search, and geomorphological Measure and Mapping survey, continues to show ongoing trends of either slow degradation or improvement in local waterways.

In order to further understand the watershed’s creeks and to identify specific concerns, HRWC developed a creek walking program in 2012. In the past two years HRWC has been able to involve teams of summer interns in this project, which has drastically increased the program’s output and simultaneously met a known community need for internships providing hands-on, field-based, local, aquatic experience. To date, the creek walking program has helped inform numerous HRWC reports and initiatives. In the near future it may also aid in applying for a suite of restoration grants.

In 2015, HRWC will partner with the Michigan DNR and local road commissions to pilot a road-stream-crossing inventory. Building off of a Wisconsin and Michigan DNR methodology, HRWC will pilot this project within the Norton Creek assessment project (described on previous page) throughout 2015 and 2016. Taking various measurements regarding the conditions of the stream, road, and culvert allows numerous crossings to be prioritized for later physical improvements. HRWC greatly appreciates Larry Scheer, who is volunteering to co-lead this pilot.

Over the past two years, HRWC’s education program has seen steady growth and refinement. Janet Kahan and Lee Burton have joined Dave Wilson in leadership positions, which has allowed HRWC staff time to refine near-stream water testing educational lessons, while adding additional lessons. This free program has expanded to numerous new schools in the watershed. For details, see: www.hrwc.org/education.

Green infrastructure services for local governments
With funding from the Americana Foundation, HRWC partners with communities in the Huron watershed to establish conservation priorities through green infrastructure planning, determine ordinance and policy improvements to enhance and maintain that green infrastructure, and help organizations and communities protect high priority natural areas.

So far, HRWC has held a green infrastructure workshop in Webster Township and provided recommendations as they revise their master plan. The green infrastructure map resulting from the workshop will inform the township as it makes decisions about the location and design of new development.

Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps)
For the past ten years, HRWC has contracted with the Michigan DEQ to run MiCorps. MiCorps’ goal is to build and train a network of lake and stream monitoring volunteers who collect water quality data across Michigan. In 2014, Michigan DEQ renewed the contract with HRWC and its MiCorps partners for another three years.

Great improvements are planned for the program, including starting shoreline habitat assessments for lakes, expanding training opportunities through videos and webinars, and reaching more people through the use of blogs and social media. Through the MiCorps program, HRWC has trained and mentored 45 stream monitoring groups and approximately two thousand lake monitoring volunteers since 2005.

— Jason Frenzel, Pam Labadie, Ric Lawson, and Paul Steen
HRWC Events and Workshops
MARCH • APRIL • MAY • 2015

Water Quality Monitoring and Training
Saturday, March 21, 1:00 pm, NEW Center
This Classroom Training Session will prepare you to measure the quality of local rivers and streams this spring and summer! Collect water samples and learn to measure stream flow and sample runoff from rain storms. Sampling sites include one or more stream sites in Washtenaw, Livingston or Wayne counties. Sampling commitment is two or more hours per month, April through September, depending on availability and interest. We have a strong need for volunteers willing to work in downriver streams and at sites west of Ann Arbor. Additional hands-on training will occur in the field during the first week of sampling.
For more info: www.hrwc.org/water-quality-monitoring
Register at: www.hrwc.org/volunteer/water-sampling

River Roundup
Saturday, April 18, 9:00 am or 10:30 am start, lasts 4 to 5 hours
NEW Center and throughout the watershed
Join a small team with your friends and family for this popular event. Collect a sample of the bugs and other creatures (benthic macroinvertebrates) that live in our streams. Like canaries in a coal mine, these creatures tell us the health of the river.
Register here: www.hrwc.org/volunteer/roundup.

Bug ID Day
Sunday, April 26, 9:00 am or 11:00 am start, lasts 2 hours, NEW Center
Discover what kinds of bugs volunteers found at the recent Roundup. Separate them into look-alike groups, and then an expert will identify them with you. You record the data and compare the results to past years.
Register here: www.hrwc.org/volunteer/id-day.

Rivering at the Ark
Sunday, April 26, 2015, 1:00 pm
A 50th anniversary celebration in words and music. Featuring Chris Good and the Sweet Insurrection
Tickets are $15 general admission and $25 reserved seating.
To purchase tickets in advance: www.theark.org/shows-events/ticket-information

Bioreserve Field Assessment Training
Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Independence Lake County Park, Webster Township
Get outside, meet new people, learn about local natural areas through this unique program. After the training, volunteers will inventory ecologically important natural areas throughout the watershed. Commitment after training entails performing (as part of a team) two or more assessments during the spring and summer. People with plant identification skills especially welcome.
Register here: www.hrwc.org/volunteer

River Cleanup
Saturday, May 16, 10:00 am in Ypsilanti
Some boats will be provided. We encourage you to bring your own equipment.
Please RSVP to: Jason at jfrenzel@hrwc.org.
More information: www.hrwc.org/our-work/programs/huron-river-clean-up
$20,000 and counting. That’s how much we’ve raised through Books by Chance with your support!

Proceeds from the internet sale of old and unwanted books, CDs and DVDs helps HRWC. Please donate! We like the slightly esoteric, academic, scholarly and especially university presses. To put your “treasures” to work for HRWC bring your donation to the HRWC office, 9am-5pm weekdays. We will handle the rest. QUESTIONS: Rebecca Foster (734) 769-5123 x 610 or rfoster@hrwc.org.
Thank You HRWC Members and Donors

November 2014 through January 2015

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- $50  Crayfish
- $100 Dragonfly
- $250 Soft Shell Turtle
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