



# Huron River Report

Published by the Huron River Watershed Council

FALL 2023



feature  
story

## Pointe Mouillée or “Wet Point”

### *Bird migration at the mouth of the Huron River*

During autumn, the skies over Southeast Michigan are alive with tens of thousands of hawks, eagles, falcons, and other birds of prey as they migrate south. Southeastern Michigan is one of the biggest hawk migration corridors in the western hemisphere. One of the most popular birding areas in Michigan is at the mouth of the watershed at Pointe Mouillée State Game Area on the shores of Lake Erie. As early as 1749, the delta and wetlands at the mouth of the Huron and Detroit Rivers have been known as Pointe Mouillée, a French term meaning “wet point.”

#### **Why here?**

Spanning hundreds of miles along the Canadian border, the Great Lakes represent a barrier for migrating hawks, most of which avoid traveling over open water when possible. Bottlenecks form where the raptors go around or between the lakes.

One such point is in far southern Ontario, where raptors move along Lake Erie’s north shore heading west until they cross the border into Michigan and turn southward again. The Hawk Migration Association of North America has identified two premier Hawk Watch locations near the mouth of the Detroit River. A few miles apart on either side of the international border, they provide different lookouts for seeing the migrating raptors. One is the Holiday Beach Conservation Area, strategically located at the extreme southwestern tip of southern Ontario. The other is at the confluence of the Huron River, the Detroit River, and Lake Erie. Two sites here are used by the Detroit River Hawk Watch—the boat launch at Lake Erie Metropark and the observation tower at the headquarters of the Pointe Mouillée State Game Area.

*continued on page 4*



American Kestrels (pictured), Osprey, Broad-winged Hawks, Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Swainson’s Hawks are early fall arrivals to Pointe Mouillée. credit: T. Stack

## Milestone Reached in Removal of Pen Dam

### *EGLE funding supports next phase for HRWC and Ypsilanti*

The City of Ypsilanti, with support from HRWC, received a \$3.78 million grant from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Dam Risk Reduction program to remove Peninsular Paper Dam. Pen Dam is a high-hazard dam recently downgraded to “poor” condition. The high hazard rating indicates severe

damage and loss of life is likely if the dam were to fail.

The dam once provided electrical and mechanical energy for the nearby Peninsular Paper Mill. However, the hydropower equipment and connecting infrastructure was long gone before the city bought the dam and land around it for one dollar in

1986. In recent years, the city has struggled to insure the dam against the potential of failure. In 1995, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) identified Pen Dam as one of three dams on the Huron River’s main stem that would

*continued on page 5*

**INSIDE: UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS** *Why Shoreline Protection Matters*  
*Thank You Summer Interns | Investing in the Greater Good | Welcome Maaiké and Kelly! | SUDS Last Call*





## Rebecca's Stream of Consciousness

As I write, most of Michigan is under a severe air quality alert. Forest fires are raging in Ontario and Quebec. Instead of sending my kids outside to enjoy their summer, we are looking for indoor activities that reduce their exposure to the particulate matter clouding our skies and drenching our cities and towns in a haze.

At this time, there are more than 500 wildfires burning across Canada during a fire season that began several weeks earlier than normal. I heard someone reflect, "I thought wildfires were a California thing." Now, in the Midwest we are hit with the realization that wildfires are an everywhere thing. Harmful air pollution is the most tangible, but the impacts reach far beyond that. It is important to put this in context to see that wildfire impacts are growing and are not "normal." High air temperatures and prolonged droughts that result from climate change are creating conditions conducive to catastrophic wildfires. And with this comes broad-reaching public health, ecological and economic impacts.

Further, trees and forests are one of the planet's greatest natural assets when it comes to carbon sequestration and storage. They help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and are key to addressing the climate crisis. By late June, the emissions from these wildfires were already the

largest annual emissions for Canada in the 21 years of our dataset.

Several Michigan legislators have introduced a suite of bills referred to collectively as the Clean Energy Future Plan. The bills support an ambitious transition away from fossil fuels putting Michigan on a path to achieving 100% clean energy by 2035. What I appreciate about these bills is that the goals and timelines are based on need rather than "feasibility." Industry has, and will continue to argue, they need more time.

The reality is that we do not have more time to address the climate crisis. Ambitious goals need to be set and strongly defended to drive the rapid innovation necessary to avoid reaching tipping points in Earth's climate systems that will render our planet inhospitable. The bills also ensure that strategies prioritize equity and environmental justice.

This summer, I attended the first in-person Environmental Justice conference hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. I heard first-hand the impacts of flooding, air pollution and unsafe drinking water on the people of Michigan. The burden of impacts from climate change falls disproportionately on already overburdened populations, including



kids, the elderly, low-income families and communities of color.

We must recognize that even far away disasters like the Canadian wildfires affect all of us. We are part of one global community – inextricably tied to Earth's climate. Our river depends on it. Our families depend on it. Our neighbors depend on it. Michigan has an opportunity to lead the country in climate action. HRWC understands the importance of ambitious climate solutions to our mission. That is why we participated in the development of the MI Healthy Climate Plan and are pushing for bold action as the state carries it out.

— Rebecca Esselman  
HRWC Executive Director  
 @natureiswater



### Make a Gift for Ages to Come

Contact Wendy Palms about  
your planned gift to HRWC:  
[wpalms@hrwc.org](mailto:wpalms@hrwc.org) or (734) 769-5123



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# Investing for the Greater Good

## *HRWC is building a sustainable future*

At HRWC, we strive to stay true to our mission—to protect and restore the river for healthy and vibrant communities. We do this through hands-on work in the field—sampling water chemistry, studying mussels and stonefly populations, and installing rain gardens. We teach children, volunteers, and community members how to keep our river clean, and why it's vitally important that each of us take action. HRWC also works to protect our home river by encouraging policies and practices that help ensure a healthy future for the watershed.

Staying true to our mission also means being thoughtful about how we invest our funds. In 2017, HRWC started an investment account and hired the Bank of Ann Arbor to manage the fund. Our Finance Committee discussed various investment strategies and felt it

was important to not only focus on investment returns but also the impact of the investments. We asked the bank to look for funds that would align with our mission. At that time, there was a growing class of funds designated as environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) funds. ESG funds strive to follow sustainable practices and have evolved to include the principles of health, safety, and corporate responsibility. Companies are scored by analysts at firms such as Bloomberg ESG Data Services, MSCI ESG Research, Thomson Reuters ESG Research, and Moody's Investor Service. Our investment advisor recently earned a Certificate in ESG Investing from the CFA Institute, a relatively new certification which helps advisors have a deeper understanding of investment options. Much of the focus around responsible



© Владыженко

investing in the US is currently on climate change, but in other countries, it is expanding to areas like DEI, waste, and biodiversity.

HRWC's policy is to invest a minimum of 30% of our investments in this asset class. Worldwide, ESG assets surpassed \$35 trillion in 2020, up from \$22.8 trillion in 2018. Locally, Bank of Ann Arbor reports that 40% of its assets under management are invested in ESG funds, up from 30% in 2018.

Investing in ESG funds is a good start to aligning our investments with our mission, but it's just a start. We need to continue to educate those who live in our watershed and beyond about best practices to protect clean water and healthy ecosystems, and we need to support ongoing conversations among policymakers and manufacturing firms to incentivize the reduction of carbon waste and chemicals such as PFAS. The increasing popularity of ESG funds indicates that there is a clear demand among consumers for companies that practice sustainable methods of production and life-cycle planning; let's keep the wave going.

Thank you for your help! Together we will protect and restore the river for healthy and vibrant communities. For more information about donating to HRWC, contact Wendy Palms.

—Jennifer Kangas and  
Wendy Palms

Up for  
a Swim?

tip

Huron  
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Watershed  
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Storm drains carry runoff and pollution to our rivers and lakes—no filters, no treatment. Keep em for rain only!



## Point Mouillée or “Wet Point” *continued from cover*

### More than hawks

Point Mouillée is also rich in year-round bird watching opportunities. Consisting of 4,040 acres, it is one of the largest freshwater marsh restoration projects in the world. A series of dikes and pumps manage water levels to recreate a version of what once was the coastal wetland of the Huron River delta. The delta had eroded and disappeared due to dam construction on the Huron River and high water in Lake Erie. In 1981, the US Army Corps of Engineers completed construction of a 700-acre crescent-shaped dike and five compartments for contaminated material dredged from the shipping channels of the Detroit and Rouge Rivers. A controversial project, the “Banana Dike” flanks the Lake Erie side of Pointe Mouillée and acts as a protective barrier to prevent erosion of the marsh. By 1984 the Corps of Engineers and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources began work to restore the Pointe Mouillée marsh.

Point Mouillée is open for birdwatching year-round. Public access is available at four parking lots and the State Game Area Headquarters. Head in on foot or bicycle to travel along the miles of gravel causeways that run atop the dikes. They separate fields from marshes and waterways and cars are not allowed. With two pullovers for boats at the North and Middle causeways, paddling is an option, although be forewarned of weather and changing water levels.

Public access to the Wildlife Refuge and designated State Game Area sections is restricted during the waterfowl hunting season running September 1 through December 15.

—Pam Labadie, Laura Rubin,  
and Paul Steen

*Thank you Bill VanderMolen and Victor Chen, birding enthusiasts and friends of HRWC. This is a reprinted and expanded article from the Huron River Report, Fall 2016.*

### More Great Birding in the Huron River Watershed

*North Bay Park on Ford Lake (Washtenaw County):* This location is good for waterfowl but also for spring migrants in the woods and along the boardwalk on the water’s edge.

*Kensington Metropark (Oakland County):* This location is a favorite of birders across Southeast Michigan due to its tremendously varied habitat of lakes, marshes, forests, and fields. It can be a fun experience for the Disney princess in all of us, as tame birds are known to eat from the hands of park visitors.

*Oakwoods Metropark (Wayne County):* This Huron River metropark has over 210 species, including nesting Yellow-breasted Chats among many other rare finds.

*University of Michigan Arboretum (Washtenaw County):* This location along the Huron River has 123 acres of a wide variety of habitat and an elevation change of 270 feet that provides for a very large number of species.

### Pointe Mouillée Events 27th Annual Hawkfest Weekend

**September 16 and 17  
Lake Erie Metropark**

*Held at the park’s Marshlands Museum and Nature Center, Hawkfest is a two-day celebration of the fall migration of the over 200,000 birds of prey—hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures—that make their way over the Metropark.*

### 75th Annual Waterfowl Festival September 16 and 17, 8am-5pm State Game Area Headquarters

*Pointe Mouillée is a big draw for waterfowl hunters. This event kicks off the waterfowl hunting season, which runs September 1 through December 15.*

*Lesser Yellowlegs is a dainty and alert shorebird found in vegetated wetlands and flooded fields across North America during migration. It is smaller with a shorter, more needle-like bill than the Greater Yellowlegs and is on the Partners in Flight “Yellow Watch List” for species with declining populations. credit: V. Chen*







## Milestone Reached in Removal of Pen Dam *continued from cover*

be most beneficial to fish and wildlife to remove. The other two are the Mill Pond Dam in Dexter (since removed) and Argo Dam in Ann Arbor.

The EGLE grant award is a major milestone in the project. It demonstrates significant commitment from the state to address a hazardous piece of obsolete infrastructure. MDNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with other local, state, and federal agencies, have also been supportive throughout the project. MDNR previously provided \$650,000 in grant support over two cycles of their Fisheries Habitat Grant Program. That funding advanced the removal planning to the point it is today.

There is still a lot to do, however, before the actual dam deconstruction can go forward. The EGLE grant provides partial funding – but more funding must be secured before water levels in the impoundment can be drawn down and the dam structure removed. With that in mind, HRWC and Ypsilanti are also pursuing numerous other funding opportunities to restore the river above Ford Lake and below Superior Dam. The goal is to raise funds beyond the bare minimum amount of work to remove the dam; the partners will also raise funds to restore the impoundment area to a safe, resilient, and ecologically beneficial river corridor. Project partners feel that a more comprehensive restoration plan will be well worth the need for extra funds and will provide an added value to the local community.

### Current Status

The removal design is nearing its final phase. The project team now has a better understanding of the steps that will be necessary to safely and slowly deconstruct the dam, restore the river, and protect areas downriver during construction. The City of Ypsilanti is providing updates on the project on the City's website as they become available.

Consulting engineers from LimnoTech, Inter-fluve, and AECOM have studied the underwater shape of the impoundment, approximated the alignment of the natural river's original channel, and estimated the amount of sediment that needs to be moved to reconstruct the waterway.



*The Peninsular Paper Dam has been an iconic feature along the river corridor for decades. Studies and assessments are underway to remove the dam and restore the Huron to its natural state for healthier environmental outcomes. credit: 7Cylinders*

The specific details will change somewhat along with the final design, but there is good news: the amount of sediment found in the impoundment was lower than expected, and the toxicity of the material that has built up behind the dam is relatively low for a dam on a river in an industrial area. That said, some excavation of sediment will be required. In a few places the sediment will be removed from the site entirely. In most locations, the sediment can be used in the restoration of the river corridor.

### What's Next

One of the next tasks is a survey for threatened or endangered mussels. The Huron River has good habitat for these vital, unassuming organisms, and this stretch could be especially beneficial once restored. Teams will be trained to locate and identify different species, and if any sensitive varieties are found, they will be relocated before dam removal begins.

Removal of the actual dam will be a slow, methodical process, first by removing stoplogs at one end of the dam, then by chipping away at the top of the concrete structure to drain the impoundment. The sediment allowed to pass will be managed to avoid unhealthy effects on fish and wildlife. As the water level falls, restoration

of exposed lands will begin. Invasive species will be removed, banks stabilized, bridges fortified, and native seeds planted. In the best-case scenario, the bulk of the construction work could take place in 2025 and is expected to last about a year.

Other dam removals across the state, including the Mill Pond Dam in Dexter, have shown us that the impoundment will revegetate quickly, greening up in the first two years after dam removal. Grasses and shrubs will come first, followed by larger trees. After five to ten years, it will be difficult to tell whether there was ever a dam there.

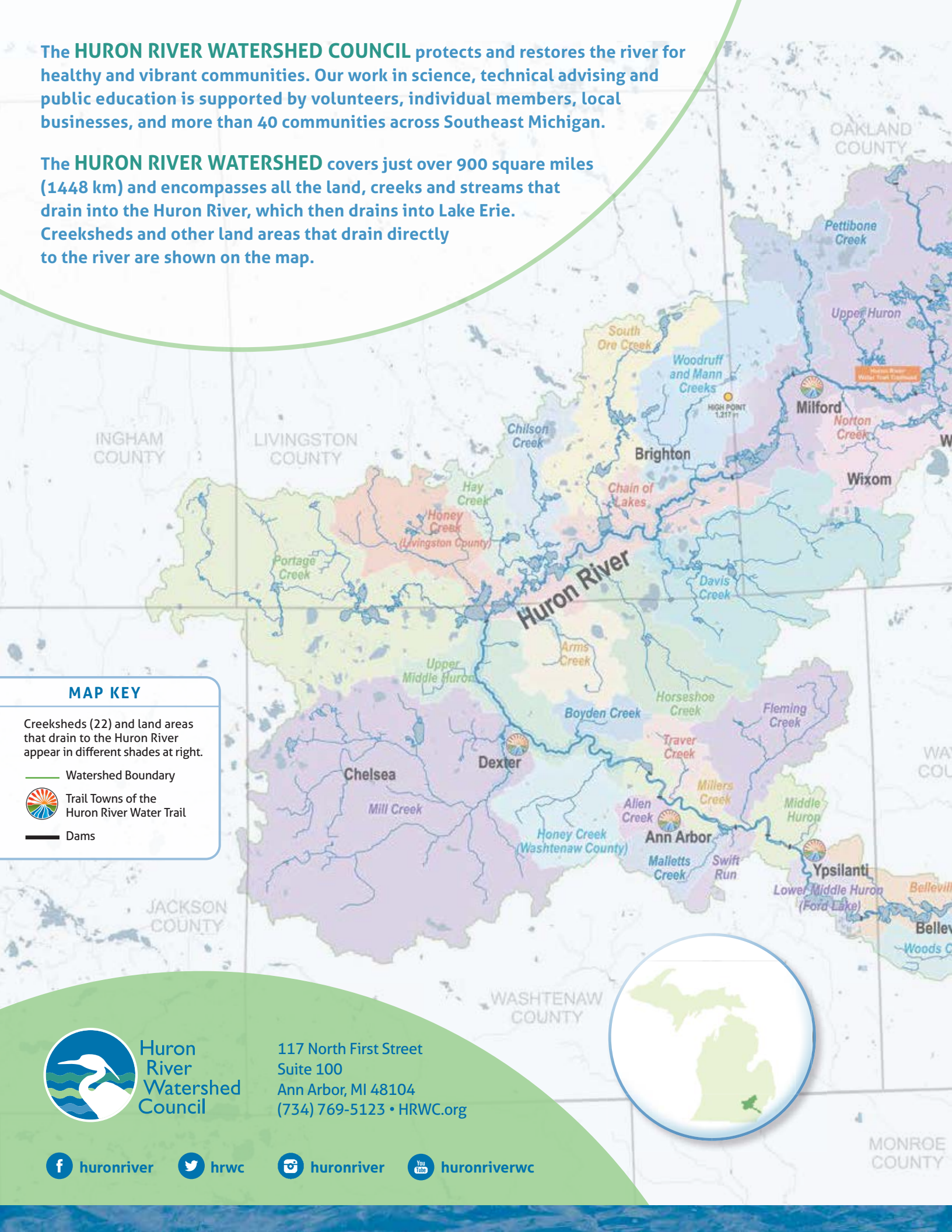
Major river restoration projects like this one are 'once in a generation opportunities' to make our communities safer, healthier, and more resilient for people and wildlife. HRWC is looking forward to working with Ypsilanti and other partners to restore this stretch of Huron River to its original splendor.

—Daniel A. Brown

*For more information about the Pen Dam project, please visit [HRWC.org/PenDam](https://hrwc.org/PenDam)*

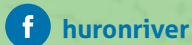
The **HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL** protects and restores the river for healthy and vibrant communities. Our work in science, technical advising and public education is supported by volunteers, individual members, local businesses, and more than 40 communities across Southeast Michigan.

The **HURON RIVER WATERSHED** covers just over 900 square miles (1448 km) and encompasses all the land, creeks and streams that drain into the Huron River, which then drains into Lake Erie. Creeksheds and other land areas that drain directly to the river are shown on the map.



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## HRWC Staff



credit: K. Paine

Front row, left to right: Paul, Kate, Marisa, Rebecca, Andrea, Allie, Kris, Anita, Heather. Back row, left to right: Wendy, Jennifer, Pam, Jason, Ric, Daniel, Melina. Not pictured: Kelly and Maaika

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## Suds on the River!

Thursday, September 7, 6-9pm, Delhi Metropark  
Kick off your fall with this favorite HRWC event. Enjoy specialty beers, delicious food and great company. Celebrate with us as we raise a glass to our home river, the Huron.

**Details and tickets:** [HRWC.org/suds](https://hrwc.org/suds)

## Ypsilanti Fall River Day

Sunday, September 24, Noon-3pm, Frog Island Park, Ypsilanti  
Paddle trips to Ford Lake and free family-friendly activities and exhibits. This event is hosted by the Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission and features HRWC, the Huron River Water Trail, and others.

**Information:** [www.ypsiparks.org](https://www.ypsiparks.org)

## River Roundup

Saturday, September 30, starts at 9am, lasts 3-4 hours  
Join a small team of your friends, family, and other volunteers to collect bugs from streams across the watershed! Meet your team on site at the first of two sampling locations.

**Registration (required):** [HRWC.org/roundup](https://hrwc.org/roundup)

## HRWC Board Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 5:30pm

**Contact:** Jennifer at [jkangas@hrwc.org](mailto:jkangas@hrwc.org)

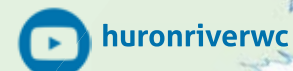
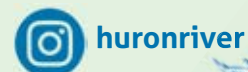
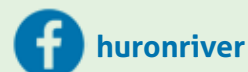
## PLEASE CHECK IN!

The next  
*Huron River Report*  
will publish in March 2024.

Please check our calendar  
at [HRWC.org](https://hrwc.org) and stay  
tuned to E-News for event  
announcements.

We also love to hear from you!  
Please use our social media  
channels to share interesting  
discoveries, adventures, and  
new ideas.

## #huronriver



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**HRWC.org**



# Volunteer Spotlight • Summer Interns



credit: G. Hieber



Amani Tolin teaching HRWC staff and interns about mussel monitoring during a survey of Fleming Creek.  
credit: HRWC

What an amazing summer! HRWC's interns were equally awesome – the group included students from Eastern Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Washtenaw Community College, as well as Dexter High School, Rudolph Steiner High School, and Washtenaw International High School.

Over the summer, these wonderful students contributed to many of HRWC's summer programs and monitoring efforts, including our STEM education program, a YMCA youth snorkeling program, a Parkridge Community Center summer camp, rain garden installation and maintenance, Huron River Water Trail signage inventorying, invasive European Frogbit monitoring, river sensor node network maintenance, and in-stream habitat monitoring. The interns also helped launch two pilot projects: our mussel monitoring program and a storm drain waste characterization project.

All of us at HRWC are grateful for these dedicated young professionals, and we are excited to see where their future education and careers take them!

—Jason Frenzel

## 2023 Summer Interns

Alex Gonzalez  
Amani Tolin  
Brian Roberts  
Clare Connelly  
Darya Lollo  
Flora Luo  
Jonah Leemis  
Kit Bellovin  
Leah Bunnell  
Leah King  
Lena Moltzen  
Mackenna Sager  
Maddie Revill  
Madelyn Chau  
Philine Garcia  
Reece Lynch  
Theresa Short

HRWC is grateful to our summer interns for sharing their time and talents to protect and preserve the watershed!  
credit: HRWC







# Protecting Natural Shorelines

*These riparian habitats are critical for lake and river health*



• *Natural shorelines do not impede access nor enjoyment of lakes and rivers.*  
credit: Mark Bugnaski  
Photography via  
Midwest Glacial Lakes  
Partnership

As the summer season comes to a close, we are reminded of the importance of rivers and lakes to our identity as Michiganders. Many of us have spent summer weekends at lakeshore cottages, fishing at our favorite kettle holes, or kayaking the Huron River. But while we've spent the warm weather months enjoying all that our rivers and lakes have to offer, we may have encountered signs that our beloved aquatic habitats are in trouble—maybe our favorite lake is covered in algae, or our local beach is closed due to high bacteria levels. We notice when the ecosystem has fallen out of balance, and we may wonder if there is anything we can do to help.

Unfortunately, humans can harm aquatic ecosystems in many ways—from spreading invasive species to causing climate change. The threats may seem overwhelming and too big for individuals to make a difference. But if you own property on a river or lake, or if you recreate at public beaches or parks along waterways, you can help mitigate one of the biggest threats facing aquatic ecosystems today—the loss of natural shoreland habitat.

## What does your shoreline look like?

Sitting on the porch of the family cottage or a lakefront rental, you

may notice that many neighbors have grassy lawns mowed right down to the shoreline. Some have built seawalls to prevent their shoreline from eroding away, while others have installed artificial beaches, carting in truckloads of sand and raking the “weeds” out of the shallows. While an individual property owner's actions may seem inconsequential, the cumulative impact of modified shorelines on a lake or river has a significant effect on the health and viability of our favorite aquatic ecosystems. In fact, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Lakes Assessment, the most significant stressor impacting the health of Michigan's lakes today is the loss of natural shorelines and shoreland habitat.

## Why natural shorelands matter

Natural shorelands provide numerous benefits to our rivers and streams and are essential to ecosystem functioning. Nearshore wetland and forest ecosystems allow for the slow infiltration of water into soils, filtering nutrients and pollutants from upland runoff before reaching waterbodies. A nearshore wetland also serves as a constant and vital filter for rivers and lakes. Wetland plants and soils absorb excess nutrients and other pollutants from

water bodies while providing habitat for juvenile fish, macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects), and amphibians. Forested areas provide a critical influx of woody debris to our rivers and lakes; dead trees and branches along the shoreline create fish habitat necessary for sustaining healthy fisheries and a dynamic ecosystem. Woody debris also reduces wave action against the shoreline, allowing aquatic plants to take root and provide more diverse habitat for other species to thrive. A robust buffer of native riparian (shoreline) vegetation can help catch runoff from lawns and roadways before pollutants like fertilizers, salts, and petroleum products enter a waterbody. Together, these different types of natural shorelands play critical roles in the ecological functioning of our aquatic environments—without natural shorelands, our rivers and lakes would be more akin to gravel pits or swimming pools than living, breathing ecosystems.

## A necessary Culture Shift

Even though natural shorelands are crucial to healthy aquatic ecosystems, cultural preferences for sandy beaches and lush manicured lawns—a hallmark of suburban neighborhoods—have transformed lake and river shorelines. Shoreline residents may see woody debris as a hazard for swimmers or boaters, or just plain messy, and remove it from shorefronts; rooted aquatic plants are ripped from swimming areas; and the wave action from powerful boats erodes shorelines rapidly, leading landowners to install seawalls and bulkheads. All of these actions damage and disrupt the natural shorelands that lakes and rivers depend on, but they are also part of a larger culture of shoreland ownership and water recreation that many of us have grown up with and find familiar. A culture shift is necessary among shoreland property owners and vacation renters, boaters, and beach-goers if we want to protect the lakes and rivers that

*continued on next page*





# Welcome Kelly and Maaike!

*Two new staff members join HRWC*



Kelly McCabe is an aquatic biogeochemist with extensive experience developing and implementing water monitoring and research initiatives. She joins us as a Watershed Programs Associate and will help run the Chemistry and Flow Monitoring Program, along with other stormwater management projects. Kelly most recently coordinated monitoring and research projects for the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR), investigating Lake Erie hypoxia and algae blooms. She earned a Master of Science in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina. Her laboratory and analytical skills will complement the HRWC stormwater team and help us better understand and address some of the most persistent river impairments. Kelly is originally from Missouri—the “show me” state!—and lives in the headwaters of Honey Creek.



Maaike Wielenga has a keen interest in sustainability communications and inspiring behavior change. As the new Marketing Associate, she supports HRWC communications and outreach programs. Maaike earned her Master of Science in Behavior, Education and Communication from the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. Her multiple years of experience in HRWC’s summer internship program and her work at the Graham Sustainability Institute have prepared her well to engage watershed residents in pollution prevention and river protection. Maaike hails from California and lives in the Traver Creekshed.

## Protecting Natural Shorelines *continued from previous page*

carry so many cherished memories. Whether you are a shoreland property owner or are an occasional visitor to lakes and rivers, we all need to recognize the invaluable benefits of natural shorelands in order to advocate for the restoration and protection of these critical habitats. And those who maintain shoreland properties—private property owners, municipalities, and parks departments—must learn to restore and manage shorelands in ways that support the essential services that natural shorelines provide.

### What we are doing

HRWC is launching a project this fall aimed at providing resources and support to lakeshore property owners on six inland lakes in Washtenaw County—Bass, Bruin, Joslin, Blind, Halfmoon, and South lakes—about the importance of natural shorelands to the health of their lakes, plus ways that they can contribute to natural shoreline protection and restoration. In partnership with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP)

and the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), HRWC will work with property owners to study lake health, determine how they can improve shoreland habitat, and assist those who are interested in restoring their shoreline to a more natural condition without losing the functionality and use of their property. We are also working with local governments to enact ordinances that protect riparian (shoreline) corridors and promote conservation easements on shoreland properties to protect intact habitat from development.

### Get involved

If you live on one of the six lakes mentioned above, HRWC would love to hear from you! Please reach out to Kate Laramie, Watershed Ecology Associate, at [klaramie@hrwc.org](mailto:klaramie@hrwc.org) for more information about how to get involved! If you own shoreland property elsewhere, please visit MNSP’s website to learn how you can assess the health of your own shoreline, become a shoreland steward, and improve your property

to protect your lake or river. Everyone can make a difference by recognizing the importance of shoreline habitats and supporting/advocating for state and local policies and programs that protect them.

Just like every seawall, artificial beach, or removal of natural habitat can negatively impact lakes or rivers—every native shoreline planting, woody debris installation, or decision to conserve wetland or forest habitat helps to improve the health of aquatic ecosystems. Everyone can make a difference, and together we can protect our beloved lakes and rivers for generations to come.

—Kate Laramie



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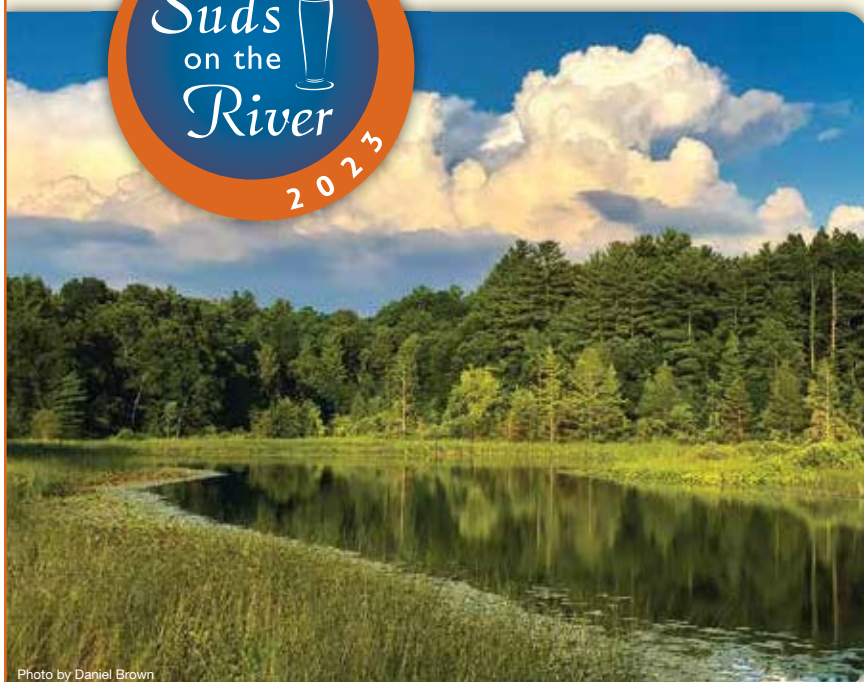


Photo by Daniel Brown

## Join us to celebrate the Huron River

*All are invited to raise a glass  
to our home waters at our  
annual fundraiser event*

**Thursday, September 7  
6-9pm**

Enjoy locally brewed artisanal beer  
and gourmet fare from your favorite  
local chefs. Learn to cast a fly rod,  
enjoy live acoustic music, and catch  
up with fellow friends of the river!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Tickets On Sale Now!*

**Visit [HRWC.org/suds](https://hrwc.org/suds)**



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